



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

*PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

May 1, 2013

Paj Nandi, MPH, Community Based Prevention Section Manager  
Office of Healthy Communities  
Division of Prevention and Community Health  
Washington State Department of Health  
P.O. Box 47848  
Olympia, WA 98504-7848

Dear Mr. Nandi:

I am pleased to write a letter of support for the Department of Health's application to the CDC State Oral Disease Prevention Program – RFA-DP13-1307. This grant will allow the Washington State Department of Health Oral Health Program build basic staffing capacity, and enhance oral health surveillance and program evaluation.

The Washington State Board of Health is currently developing a set of recommended strategies to improve the oral health of Washington residents. Our objectives are to promote those strategies and to use them to guide Washington State Board of Health rule and policy development activity; as well as to provide leadership on public health policies that focus on oral health promotion, prevention, early intervention, and treatment.

In collaboration with the Oral Health Program and other stakeholders we are currently examining best practices for oral health promotion, prevention, early intervention, and treatment by reviewing the literature and consulting with state and national experts. A set of recommended strategies will be submitted to the Washington State Board of Health for its review and approval in November 2013.

We are very hopeful that the Washington Oral Health Program's application will be selected for funding because the foundational support it would provide is critical to helping improve the oral health status of the people of the State of Washington.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Austin, Chair Washington State Board of Health

cc: Dr. Jim Sledge, Washington State Board of Health  
Sue Grinnell, Department of Health  
Allene Mares, Department of Health  
Tara Wolff, Washington State Board of Health  
Michelle Davis, Washington State Board of Health