This bill covers five main areas aimed at ending the dental crisis in America by expanding coverage, creating new access points, enhancing the workforce, improving education, and funding new research.

**Coverage:** This bill extends comprehensive dental health insurance to millions of Americans who do not have coverage today.
- Extends comprehensive coverage to all Medicare, Medicaid, and VA beneficiaries
- Makes dental services an essential health benefit for adults under the ACA
- Allows States to be eligible for an enhanced FMAP (15% increase) for dental services under Medicaid if they meet requirements to address provider participation and patient utilization
- Requires public reporting of states’ Medicaid dental benefits and utilization

**Access Points:** This bill ensures that there are more places you and your family can go to access a qualified oral health care professional to get the care you need.
- Increases funding for oral health services for health clinics, such as FQHCs
- Increases funding for school-based dental services
- Authorizes emergency room care coordination grants to enable individuals to receive dental care in clinics rather than in emergency room settings
- Authorizes funding for mobile and portable services and outreach to underserved populations
- Encourages the delivery of telehealth-enabled dental services

**Workforce:** This bill uses multiple strategies to increase the number of oral health professionals who will work in communities with the greatest need.
- Authorizes funding for additional National Health Service Corps scholarships and loan repayment to recruit and support oral health professionals to work in underserved communities
- Creates an oral health professional student loan program
- Authorizes additional funding for dental residencies in community health centers
- Incentivizes higher reimbursement rates for dental services to encourage greater provider participation in Medicaid
- Creates new demo programs for the training and employment of alternative dental health care providers (Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, Bureau of Prisons, Indian Health Service)

**Education:** This bill addresses the need to educate current and future oral health care providers to better serve vulnerable populations and to integrate oral health care into overall health care.
- Authorizes additional funding for programs to educate non-dental health professionals about oral health to encourage the integration of oral health care into overall health care
- Requires that dental schools accepting any federal funding meet criteria designed to prepare students to meet the needs of diverse and underserved populations

**Research:** This bill authorizes funding for research on prevention and disease management to improve oral health care delivery and the oral health status of our country.
- Authorizes additional federal funding for oral health research and evaluation related to the care and needs of underserved and vulnerable populations

Questions? Please contact Senator Sanders’ Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging staff at (202) 224-5480.