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The Department of Health (the department) values the comments and time tribal health organizations spent reviewing the proposed Medicaid state plan amendment adding advanced practice dental hygienists as a Medicaid provider type.

The following information represents a record of Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB) comments (verbatim where included) and department responses regarding the proposed state plan amendment (SPA).

Tribal Comment #1-

The Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB) writes in support of the proposed Medicaid State Plan Amendment and the Alternative Benefit Plan Amendment to add advanced practice dental hygienists as a list of covered providers.

Department Response –

The department appreciates the support of the proposed SPA.

Tribal Comment #2-

The addition of advanced practice dental hygienists will support further access to care for beneficiaries and allow dentists to focus on treatment of higher acuity patients. While we are supportive of the addition of this provider type, we also wish to ensure that other similarly placed provider types are held equal in the services they are eligible to bill and be paid for providing. Therefore, we request that if there are any additional services for which an advanced practice dental hygienist is eligible to bill and be paid, that Dental Health Aide Therapists are also eligible to bill and be paid for rendering those services.

State Response –

Again, the department is appreciative of the support for the proposed SPA. The department acknowledges the additional request; however, this proposed SPA is limited to the provisions of Senate Bill 173.