



Oral health impacts overall health, well-being of lowans

DI Findley, Iowa CareGivers, West Des Moines, Letter to the Editor Published 7:13 p.m. CT May 17, 2017 | Updated 17 hours ago



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Dick Goodson's May 12 letter to the editor, "The One Tooth Problem: Do we provide health care to everyone," drew attention to the need for oral health care. He referred to a McDonald's employee, appearing to be in her 50s, who had a single tooth, to make a number of interesting points about access to health care for low-income individuals.

Goodson suggested that oral care is separate from other medical care. However, oral care isn't a separate issue from other medical care. In fact, as the lead organization on one major initiative of the Lifelong Smiles Coalition, known as Mouth Care Matters, funded by Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation, Mid-Iowa Health Foundation and Iowa Department of Public Health, we have learned that oral health impacts the overall health and well-being of all lowans. In fact, having access to good oral care prevents more serious medical conditions such as heart disease and pneumonia. Good oral care is vital to older lowans and people with disabilities being able to remain healthy and independent.

Thanks to Mr. Goodson for drawing attention to the importance of dental health care.

— DI Findley, Iowa CareGivers, West Des Moines

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