

From: Kevin Mello <[kevinmellolocal641@gmail.com](mailto:kevinmellolocal641@gmail.com)>  
To: [Brad.Markey@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:Brad.Markey@newbedford-ma.gov) <[Brad.Markey@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:Brad.Markey@newbedford-ma.gov)>;  
[Brian.Gomes@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:Brian.Gomes@newbedford-ma.gov) <[Brian.Gomes@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:Brian.Gomes@newbedford-ma.gov)>;  
[ryan.pereira@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:ryan.pereira@newbedford-ma.gov) <[Ryan.Pereira@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:Ryan.Pereira@newbedford-ma.gov)>;  
[Linda.Morad@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:Linda.Morad@newbedford-ma.gov) <[Linda.Morad@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:Linda.Morad@newbedford-ma.gov)>  
Sent: Mon, Mar 20, 2023 10:40 am  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AFSCME LOCAL 641

Good Morning All,

I wanted to reach out and voice my concerns, on a city wide dental plan. The city unions run their Dental insurance plans 100% independently, and have been all along. We do not rely on the city for any contributions. As a Union we cover, current members , and their families. Our retirees and their spouses, we also cover their spouses after our retirees deaths. We have our own dental staff , that our retirees pay quarterly by check to keep up their insurance. Our dental staff run our plans , and make sure all bills are collected and paid. Since the Janus , ruling against AFSCME on June 6th , 2018 , we use our dental insurance as a bargaining chip to entice employees to join the Union and keep our number's strong. AFSCME 641 , AFSCME 841 , and the Paraprofessional Union combined together, to get the best insurance rates possible. We have been locked into our current rate for the past 2 years , and negotiated with BCBS dental , that there will be no increase in fees for the next 2 years , and our members and their families are now allowed an extra 300.00 dollars of work each year from 1,200.00 to 1,500.00 each, plus 2 cleanings. If the council decides to vote in favor for a city wide Dental plan , I feel that with so many more people covered in the plan , the amount of dental work that will be getting done , the claims will skyrocket , and make our premiums rise to a cost , that will make our members not able to afford dental insurance anymore. Of course insurance companies know how to make everything sound great , when they are running their sales pitch to everyone, but we all know , the more work that gets done the more the insurance companies are going to charge in each year to come. Thank You for your Time, Please consider supporting your local Unions on this.

Respectfully,

Kevin A Mello  
President Local 641