

24TH DISTRICT  
**BOB MENSCH**

SENATE BOX 203024  
459 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
THE STATE CAPITOL  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3024  
(717) 787-3110  
FAX: (717) 787-8004  
EMAIL: [bmensch@pasen.gov](mailto:bmensch@pasen.gov)  
[www.senatormensch.com](http://www.senatormensch.com)

AUG 10 2011



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FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Senate of Pennsylvania**

**MEMO**

**DATE:** August 10, 2011  
**TO:** All Senators  
**FROM:** Senator Bob Mensch  
**SUBJECT:** Co-sponsorship #8- Study of Dental Care for People with Disabilities

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I am introducing a resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) to conduct a study of the disparities that exist in accessing and receiving dental care among persons with disabilities in the Commonwealth.

Many individuals with disabilities have difficulty in not only finding a dentist who take their dental insurance, but also have trouble finding a dental office that is handicap accessible within the office. Dentists may not have experience or training in performing dental services on a person with disabilities who may have needs above and beyond a traditional patient. Some dental insurance plans seem reluctant to pay for services that may not be routine in dental care but necessary for a person with disabilities to receive adequate dental care.

Research has shown a correlation between good dental hygiene and overall good health. A simple cleaning and check-up is not so simple for many people with disabilities. This resolution will help in determining the obstacles they may have in obtaining quality dental services.

If you would like to co-sponsor this resolution, please call my office at (717) 787-3110 or email [gsarfert@pasen.gov](mailto:gsarfert@pasen.gov).