



Utahns

SPEAK UP

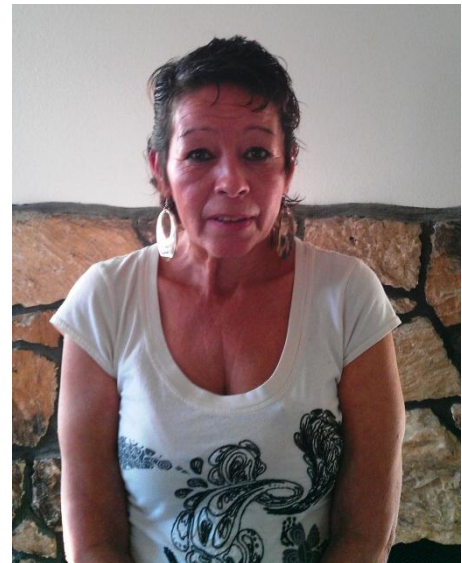
“If I had dental coverage, I would have seen the dentist years before any of my problems developed saving my family—and the state—thousands of dollars.”

Dental Coverage Would Have Prevented an Expensive Emergency Department Visit.

Joanne has not been able to see a dentist for 30 years. She is now 53, and has both a disability and serious dental issues. As a widow living with a mental health disability, Joanne has struggled because she cannot afford to take care of her teeth and Medicaid does not cover dental services.

About two years ago Joanne had an abscessed tooth so she had to go to the Emergency Department at one of the local hospitals to get treated. Joanne and her family paid thousands of dollars out-of-pocket for her treatment, made worse because an injection affected her nervous system with serious consequences for her health.

Joanne ended up visiting the ED on a few occasions after that initial visit since it was the only place that would see her. To this date, she is still dealing with cavities and broken teeth. “If I had dental coverage, I would have been able to see the dentist years before any of these problems developed saving my family—and the state—thousands of dollars.”



POLICY SOLUTION: RESTORE DENTAL BENEFITS FOR ADULTS IN MEDICAID