

Those of us with insurance tend to take dental care for granted. We know how rapidly painful a bad tooth can become but we know we can get help quickly from our dentist. A few years ago I had a young co-worker who had a bad toothache--and no insurance.

He was conscientious, a hard worker, an educated fellow who had prepared himself well for the job market but then got caught up in "last hired, first fired" in the economic downturn of 2008. His job with us was low paying and part-time, leaving him ineligible for the health insurance offered by our little firm and unable to afford the work he needed.

Dental care was available through the free clinic and he was signed up for that--another thing he did right. But free dental care is not speedy dental care so he went through days and days of severe pain before getting relief.

Expand Medicaid.

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