



### MEDICAL LOSS RATIO FOR DENTAL INSURANCE

# What is Medical Loss Ratio (MLR)?

How does it help patients?

What is the difference between general health insurance and dental insurance?

What progress has been made in the states?



## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GENERAL HEALTH INSURANCE AND DENTAL INSURANCE

General Health Insurance: Provides unexpected/catastrophic coverage

**Dental Insurance: Provides only basic preventative care** 

#### GENERAL HEALTH INSURANCE

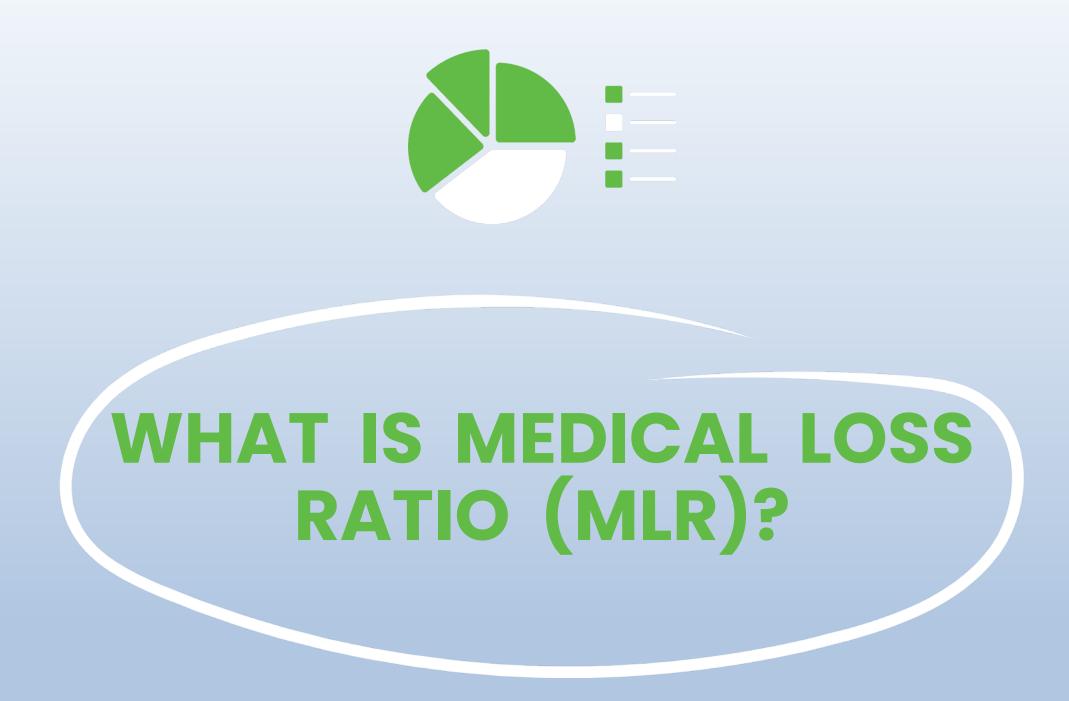
#### DENTAL INSURANCE

- No annual limit; unused benefits do not roll back into insurers' bank
- Risk-based
- Able to spread risk
- Plan design encourages prevention and catastrophic care costs

- Limited annual care expenditure
- Insurance payments are generally low (lower premiums)
- Designed to cover basic preventative care rather than treatment of dental disease
- Insurance typically covers 50% of costs for major issues (usually capped at \$1,000 per year)
- Tends to be treated as a stipend. Many employers do not cover or offer it at all

#### **SUMMARY**

Plan Components	Medical	Dental
Annual Limit on Expenditures	X	
Risk Bearing-Spreading Risk		X
<b>Preexisting Condition Limits</b>	X	
Must Comply with PPA		X
Deductibles		
Co-Pay/Coinsurance		
Prior Authorizations		



The percentage of insurance premiums spent on patient care, rather than on overhead costs, like executive salaries and administration.

#### HB 1481 CONSUMER PROTECTIONS



Adds transparency to dental insurance

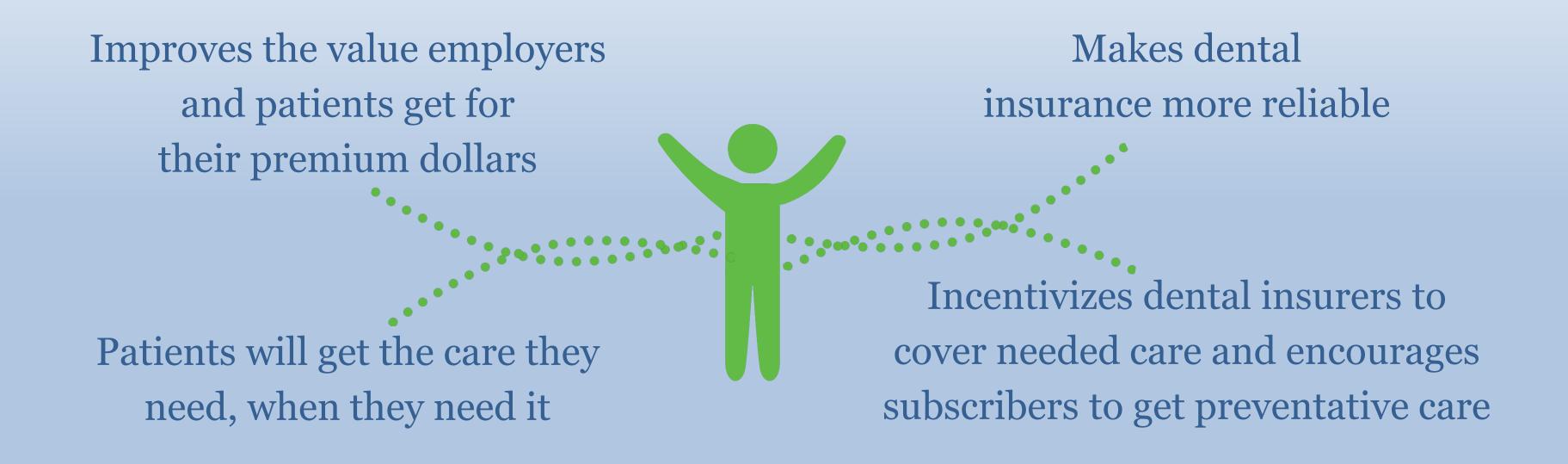


Establishes a minimum percentage of premiums that dental insurers must spend on patient care



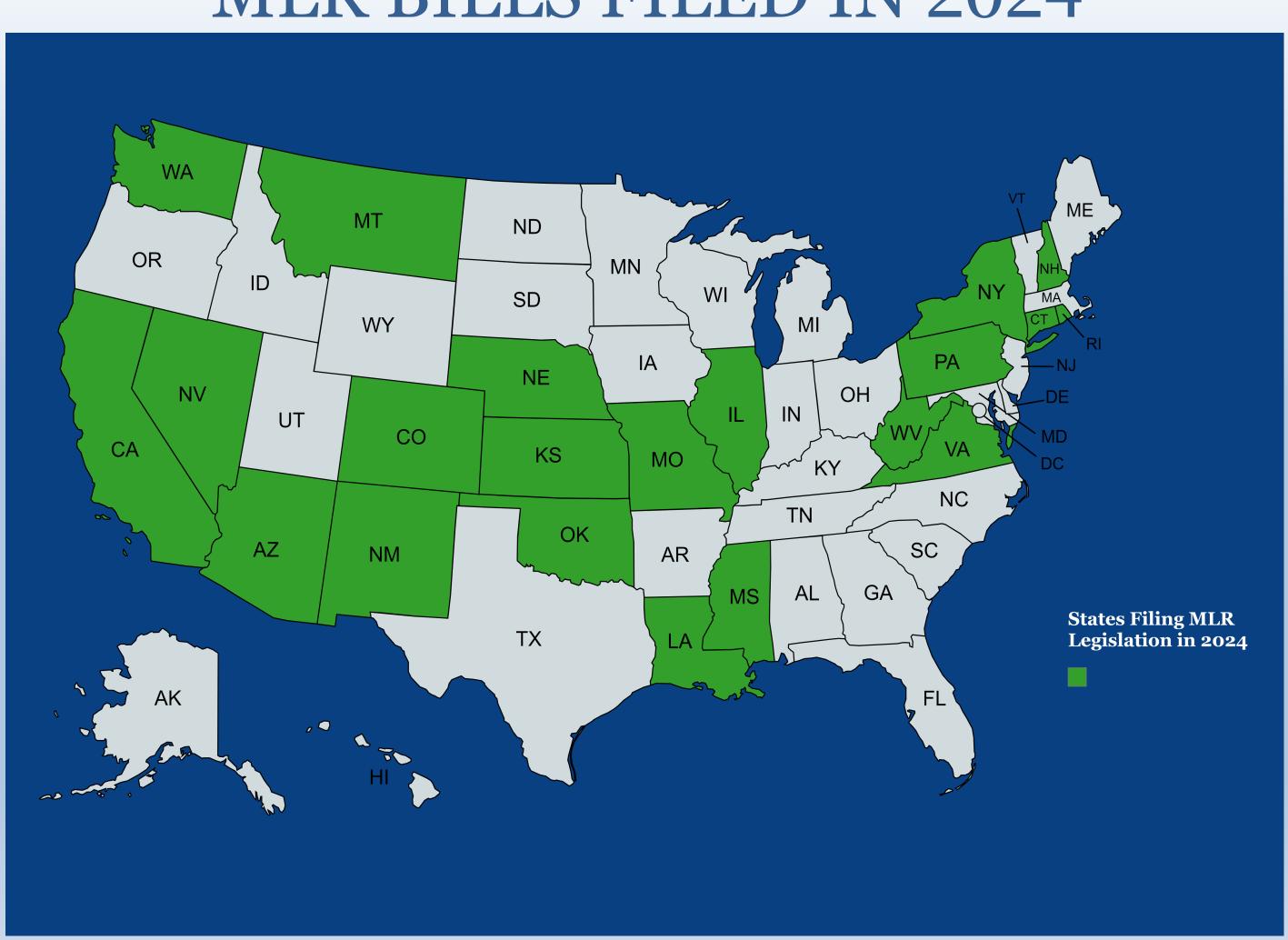
Requires carriers who do not meet the minimum percentage to refund the difference to covered patients and groups

#### HOW THIS BILL HELPS PATIENTS

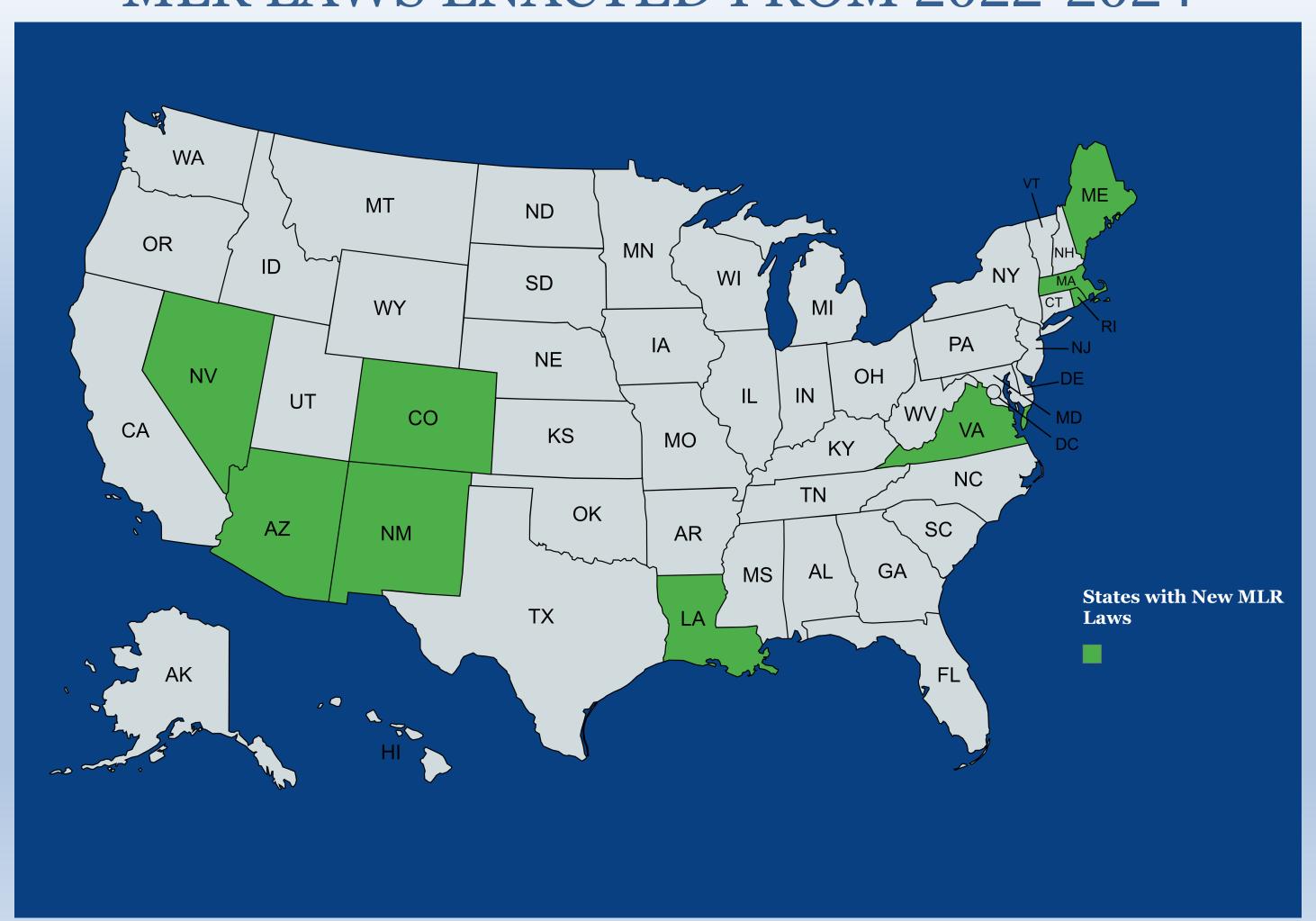


MLR legislation will improve the value of oral health coverage.

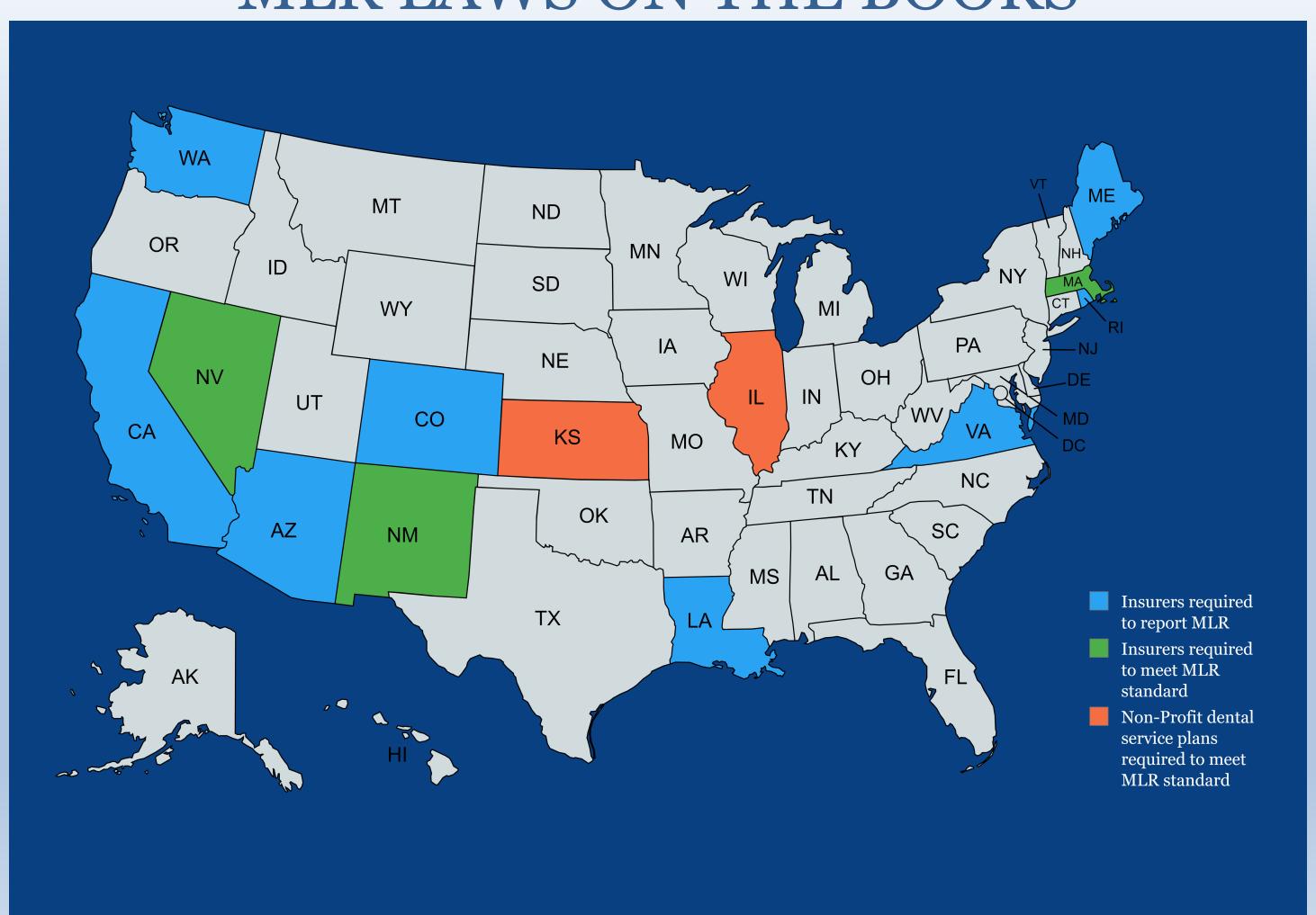
#### MLR BILLS FILED IN 2024

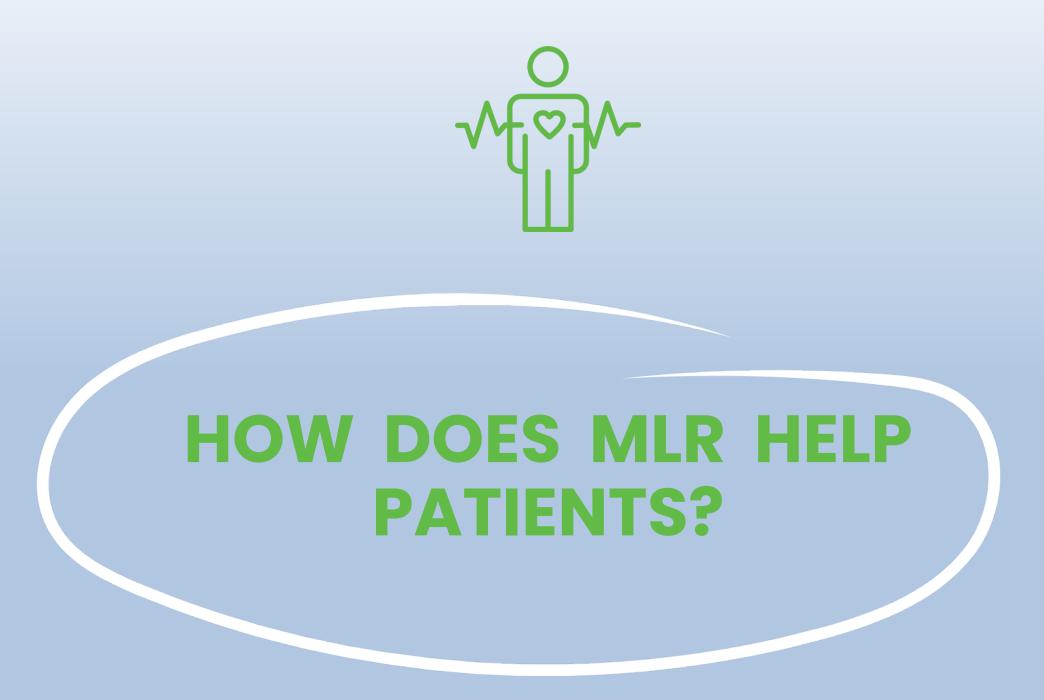


#### MLR LAWS ENACTED FROM 2022-2024



#### MLR LAWS ON THE BOOKS





Insurance premiums should be spent on patient care

#### HOW DOES MLR HELP PATIENTS?



TRANSPARENCY: Patients deserve to know that their premiums are being spent on actual care.



<u>INCENTIVE STRUCTURE</u>: MLR incentivizes insurers to provide patents with dental care, rather than padding their own profits.



STABILITY: Insurers have many levers to use to meet MLR, which ensures sound investments in patient care.



EVEN PLAYING FIELD: Negates dental insurers' threats to raise premiums rather than control administrative spending; insurers prioritize profits over oral healthcare.

#### MASSACHUSETTS MLR BILL:

- <u>83% RULE</u>: Dental insurers must spend at least 83% of premiums on dental care and quality improvements.
- **REFUNDS**: If spending is below 83%, insurers must refund excess premiums to policyholders.
- **REPORTING**: Insurers must submit annual financial statements and MLR data to the state, which will be made public.
- <u>RATE APPROVAL</u>: The Commissioner can reject proposed rate increases that are excessive, inadequate, or discriminatory.
- **EXEMPTIONS**: Does not apply to self-insured plans or when the insurer acts as a third-party administrator.

#### WILL PREMIUMS GO UP?

- Like the Massachusetts MLR Bill, HB 1481 has provisions that protect against premium hikes.
- Section 3 of HB 1481 states that if a dental insurance company asks for a rate increase, but their administrative costs grow too fast, profits are over 2%, or they aren't spending enough on claims, the Commissioner will reject the increase as excessive.