

1

Would you support a comprehensive adult Medicaid dental benefit that includes access to routine / preventive oral health care?

Yes

2

Please explain your answer.

Oral health is very important to the overall health of an individual. For example, self-esteem, lack of nutrition, lost days of school and work, and can cause inflammation leading to cardiovascular disease. The benefits of good oral health are endless and saves money on the long-run.

3

Recognize and regulate non-dentist oral health providers (for example, support the integration of dental therapists according to HB2235)?

Yes

4

Integration of and provision of oral health services in non-traditional settings (for example, pediatric offices, schools, mobile clinics, etc.).

Yes

5

Empower AHCCCS to better enforce standards regarding access to oral health care.

Yes

6

Please explain your answers.

It is important that we address dental/healthcare disparities. Therefore, it is important that we create equity in underserved populations and meet the needs of those communities.

7

Oral health is an important part of overall health for both mother and child. Hormonal changes during pregnancy put pregnant women at higher risk for oral health issues. This disparity is exacerbated in low-income women, who may lack access to other key health supports. Research strongly suggests a link between gum disease and poor birth outcomes such as maternal high blood pressure, preterm delivery, and lower birth weight, which in turn increase overall health care costs. At present, low-income women who participate in Arizona's Medicaid program do not have access to comprehensive and affordable oral health care, despite several broadly-supported efforts by the legislature to provide this benefit. Would you support a comprehensive oral health benefit for pregnant women who participate in Medicaid?

Yes

8

Please explain your answer.

Oral health is extremely important especially during pregnancy. Inflammatory makers can even lead to premature labor putting baby at risk.

9

How would you ensure oral health access is a priority in future state budgets?

Preventative services not only save lives, it is also more cost effective.

10

What other actions would you take to promote oral health equity in Arizona?

In most cases, people should not have to go to the emergency room for dental care but see this happen because lack of affordable dental care. We need to change that. We need affordable and comprehensive coverage because it lowers overall costs.

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Thank you for participating in the survey. To receive a record of your responses please provide your email.

perez4arizona@gmail.com