

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 incredibly important to overall health. We can also save money through adequate preventative care.

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.

No response

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.

No response

9

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

I am happy to work with my caucus colleagues to find primary sponsors for these bills and work within the Democratic Caucus to build support for these important initiatives.

10

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

I frequently attend the regular offering of oral health services at the State Fair Grounds and it's astonishing the number of people that will show up for free dental care. I am happy to offer my network, voice, or whatever else is helpful to accomplish oral health equity in Arizona.

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

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