

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.

Now more than ever, it's clear that we all do better when everyone has access to quality, affordable healthcare which of course includes oral healthcare.

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's vital that people of all ages have access to dental care by those with the education, training and expertise to provide it. Making that care more accessible to children and adults is an important step in making that possible.

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.

As your question points out, pregnancy is an important time when oral healthcare for a mother as well as the developing fetus will have long-lasting impact. In addition to the human imperative, it is also economically smart to invest in oral healthcare during this critical time.

9

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

I would make sure that both parties work together to create a budget that puts people ahead of special interests.

10

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

I would meet with stakeholders and lend my voice to speaking out about the importance of oral health equity.

11

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

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