

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.

Preventative care is a proactive way to insure that patients don't require more expensive, more invasive treatment later.

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.

Access to healthcare is important, and we need to make sure that people can access it even if that means it looks different than what we are accustomed to.

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.

I've signed on as a co-sponsor the last two years. I will continue to be supportive of the issue.

9

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

There are so many competing priorities for the limited state dollars. It is critical that members are educated about how dental health impacts physical health.

10

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

This is not my area of expertise. My door is always open, and I am always willing to listen to those who would like to share a good idea.

11

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

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