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

Yes

2

Please explain your answer.

For those who qualify, preventative care is the best way to avoid high dollar medical claims in the future.

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.).

No

5

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

Yes

6

Please explain your answers.

Medical treatments do not belong in public school. That opens the door to other medical treatments being allowed, and room for violation against Parent's Rights (ARS 1-602).

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.

Prenatal care means different things to different women. But the access to such needs is important to the success of the patient post partum, especially if the goal is to see the patient improve their economic situation and move to private insurance.

9

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

I would remind colleagues that good oral health leads to personal economic advancement, which leads to independence from state paid medical insurance needs with AHCCCS, etc. Poor oral health can lead to other, more serious, more expensive medical treatments, such as infection, especially to those with Diabetes and Heart Disease.

10

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

Oral Health Equity: Those Arizonan's who qualify due to low income economic status, should be provided the same services, regardless of race.

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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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