

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.

Good physical health includes good oral health. Restorative treatments and preventive care are cost-effective, saving money long-term by finding and treating problems early.

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 to not only provide oral health benefits, we must also ensure there is network adequacy and thoughtfully address workforce shortages.

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 have sponsored, co-sponsored, and offered as an amendment the measure to provide dental benefits for pregnant women receiving benefits through AHCCCS. This measure has been a priority for me since my very first legislative session.

9

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

We need a legislative majority who will recognize the importance and prioritize oral health. I have sponsored bills to expand access to oral health care every year, but unfortunately those bills rarely receive hearings by the current legislative majority. I will continue attempts to persuade members that good oral healthcare is vital and cost-effective.

10

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

Stakeholder engagement is important to make the case for expanding access to oral health care. I will continue to engage with groups like the March of Dimes, oral health providers and other physicians and health experts to help draw attention to these important issues. There is a long list of opportunities - expanding access to insurance coverage for oral health care, funding community health clinics that provide comprehensive care, expanding mobile clinics and clinics integrated in school settings, working to ensure better access to quality food.

11

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

kellibutleraz@gmail.com