

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.

Everyone e deserves good dental care. Dental issues are related to heart disease and cancer and prevention and care are part of overall good health.

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.

Oral health is part of healthcare and deserves the same access to other forms of care.

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 an OB provider for most of my career in medicine I know that poor oral health has a connection to prematurity and other issues in pregnancy. Plus this may be the first or only time a pregnant woman has access to care. Good oral health keeps people healthy and good health care is a human right.

9

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

We must incorporate oral health into healthcare and not segregate it. Oral health like mental health is part of the human body and should be included in all healthcare funding and decisions.

10

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

More access to dental healthcare in rural and tribal communities.

11

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

sgirardpa@hotmail.com