



CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Dave Jones
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: AB 667 (Block) Position: Support

Dear Assemblyman Jones:

The California Society of Pediatric Dentistry strongly supports of the passage AB 667 (Block), which would specifically include fluoride varnish in the topical fluoride regimens applicable in public health and school settings. The bill would also clarify that dental assistants and lay persons, as well as dental professionals, may deliver this preventive service in these specified settings under the appropriate prescription and protocol of a licensed dentist or physician.

It is now well established that childhood tooth decay, although largely preventable, is a significant health issue affecting nearly two thirds of California elementary school age children.⁽¹⁾ Even more important, from a public health standpoint, is that children from poor households --- those that qualify for school lunch programs and safety net clinics --- are much more at risk for dental decay and more likely to suffer from its consequences.

The efficacy and safety of topical fluoride varnish applied in a manner consistent with professional direction and supervision is equally well-established. In fact, one of the most pertinent clinical studies to date found that oral health counseling combined with fluoride varnish application was significantly more effective than oral health counseling alone in reducing the incidence of dental decay in minority children from low-income households in the San Francisco Bay area. Equally important, no adverse events or effects were reported.⁽²⁾

This bill does not change the eligible population receiving topical fluoride in school-based settings or public health programs. It specifies that fluoride varnish is included, along with fluoride rinses, in the topical applications that may be used and it clarifies that dental assistants, otherwise limited to direct supervision in the dental office setting, are among those that may participate in these preventive programs.

Lindsey Robinson, DDS
President, California Society of Pediatric Dentistry

c: Assembly Member Marty Block
 Officers and Directors, California Society of Pediatric Dentistry
 Dr. Paul Reggiardo, Public Policy Advocate, California Society of Pediatric Dentistry
 Dr. Ray Stewart, Executive Director, California Society of Pediatric Dentistry

The California Society of Pediatric Dentistry is the professional membership organization representing California's nearly 600 pediatric dental providers, educators and researchers. Our members provide primary and specialty care to infants, children, adolescents and patients with special medical and developmental needs. The mission of the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry is to advocate for optimal oral health and general welfare of infants, children, and adolescents.

⁽¹⁾ California Oral Health Assessment Survey, 2006

⁽²⁾ Weintraub, et.al., J Dent Research, 2006