



CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

May 28, 2008

The Honorable Mervyn M. Dymally
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: SB 1387

Position: Support

Dear Assembly Member Dymally:

The California Society of Pediatric Dentistry strongly supports the passage of SB 1387, which would fairly preserve the appeal rights of oral health providers on the patient's behalf when a dental service plan believes an incorrect dental insurance payment has been made.

Current law provides for an internal payment dispute resolution mechanism under the Knox-Keene Act for managed care plans and the California Insurance Code for indemnity plans. Current law also provides for an appeal of any decision under the internal dispute mechanism to the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance, as applicable. This bill would prohibit dental plans from collecting disputed overpayments by deducting these payment amounts from future dental claims until the entire dispute resolution process has been completed.

The California Society of Pediatric Dentistry believes this is an important issue to patients. In most cases, the patient is responsible for that portion of the service fee not reimbursed by their dental carrier. When a dental plan denies payment in full or part for rendered services, that portion of the fee then becomes the responsibility of the patient. In cases of a disputed overpayment which is collected by the insurer prior to the completion of the internal and the external dispute resolution processes, the patient is forced to accept a financial liability which may ultimately be overturned. For many families, this means assumption of a financial burden that would be unnecessary if the dispute resolution and appeal system were first allowed to complete its full course, which is the goal of SB 1387.

For this reason, we urge the passage of SB 1387.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Jeffrey Wood".

A. Jeffrey Wood, DDS
President, California Society of Pediatric Dentistry

- c: Members, Assembly Committee on Health
Assembly Member Alex Padilla
Officers and Directors, California Society of Pediatric Dentistry
Dr. Paul Reggiardo, Public Policy Advocate, California Society of Pediatric Dentistry
Dr. Mel Rowan, 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.