



CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

April 25, 2006

The Honorable Deborah Ortiz
Chair, Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 1403 (Scott, Aanestad, Emmerson
Oropeza, and Pavley)**

Position: Support

Dear Senator Ortiz:

The California Society of Pediatric Dentistry strongly supports the passage of SB 1403, which will facilitate the delivery of urgently-needed oral health services to young children and persons of all ages with developmental disabilities. Current regulations in the Medi-Cal dental program (Denti-Cal), designed to minimize the fraudulent placement of unnecessary fillings by unscrupulous providers, require an unnecessary and unrealistic level of radiographic (x-ray) documentation for this subset of patients. Patients with developmental disabilities and children under four years of age are oftentimes incapable of providing the level of cooperation and compliance necessary to meet current documentation requirements. As a result, they do not receive the care or treatment they need.

Passage of SB 1403 will eliminate a bureaucratic barrier that discourages dentists from participating in the Denti-Cal program, especially in the delivery of care for these special patients who endure a disproportionate share of dental disease and its consequences. It will thereby increase access to dental services under the Denti-Cal program. Passage of SB 1403 will further allow conscientious dentists to comply with current guidelines and standards of care which prohibit the taking of radiographs for bureaucratic rather than diagnostic purposes. Passage of SB 1403 will not erode the oversight responsibilities of the Department of Health Services necessary to discourage and prevent Medi-Cal fraud.

The California Society of Pediatric Dentistry is the professional organization representing California's nearly 600 pediatric dental care specialists in teaching, research and clinical practice. Our mission is to advocate optimal oral health and general welfare of infants, children, adolescents and persons with special needs. We are the state component of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

On behalf of many of the most vulnerable patients we serve, we urge passage of SB 1403.

Martin Steigner
President, California Society of Pediatric Dentistry

c: Members, Senate Health Committee
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