



# CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

June 9, 2008

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

**Re: SB 1634      Position: Support**

Dear Assembly Member Dymally:

The California Society of Pediatric Dentistry recommends the passage of SB 1634, which would provide coverage for medically-necessary orthodontic and dentofacial orthopedic services under a patient's medical care plan when provided in infancy, childhood and adolescence as an essential component in the rehabilitation of cleft palate and other congenital craniofacial anomalies.

Traditional orthodontic services, which are covered under a dental reimbursement plan, may be provided at any interval in the patient's lifetime, including adulthood. The timing of orthodontic services provided in conjunction with surgical rehabilitation of congenital craniofacial anomalies is dictated by the coordinated efforts of a cleft palate / craniofacial treatment team and represents the standard of such care. An essential component of that care cannot be removed from this approach without compromising the patient result.

Orthodontic services for cleft palate and other craniofacial anomalies are not separate or in addition to correction of these defects, but an indispensable element of the medical treatment plan and, as such, should not be excluded from the patient's medical benefits designed to financially underwrite these efforts.

For these reasons, and reasons brought forward by the California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRB), we recommend the passage of SB 1634.

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

c:      Members, Assembly Committee on Health  
         Senator Darrell Steinberg  
         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.