State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services

JENNIFER KENT
Director

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

July 2, 2018

The Honorable Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

SENATE BILL 1148 (AS AMENDED JUNE 21, 2018) – OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher:

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) must inform you of its opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 1148, which has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. SB 1148 would require DHCS to add silver diamine fluoride (SDF) as a covered benefit for all Medi-Cal beneficiaries as a treatment option for tooth decay. SDF would be provided after consultation with the beneficiary, or his or her designee, and written informed consent on a form approved by DHCS, as part of a beneficiary's comprehensive treatment plan. This coverage shall only be implemented to the extent that DHCS obtains any federal approvals to do so, and obtains federal matching funds to the extent permitted by federal law. Also, SB 1148 would allow a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice to provide services for the treatment of dental caries. In addition, this bill would allow DHCS to establish appropriate utilization controls for patients receiving these services.

In January 2017, DHCS established a four-year pilot program under Domain 2 of the Dental Transformation Initiative, which currently offers SDF for children ages six and under who are Medi-Cal beneficiaries. DHCS believes the outcome and evaluation of the pilot program should properly determine the effectiveness of SDF, including age-appropriate utilization, in order to better consider its inclusion as a new Medi-Cal benefit.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 440-7500.

Sincerely,

o/s/by: CG

Carol Gallegos
Deputy Director

cc: See next page

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cc: The Honorable Richard Pan
Member of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 5114
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Co-Chair and Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Assembly Republican Caucus
Assembly Floor Analysis
CHHS Legislative Unit
Department of Finance
GO Deputy Legislative Secretary