



JENNIFER KENT
Director

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

July 17, 2018

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

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

SENATE BILL 707 (AS AMENDED June 21, 2018) – OPPOSE

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) must inform you of its opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 707, which is scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. SB 707 would, until January 1, 2023, establish an 11-member Medi-Cal Dental Advisory Group (AG) within DHCS to study and evaluate the structure, policies, and priorities of the Medi-Cal Dental Program, with the goal of raising utilization rates among children to 60 percent or greater and improving the oral health of the Medi-Cal eligible population. The proposed Denti-Cal AG would also provide assistance and advice to DHCS, the Legislature, and the Governor's Office.

SB 707 is duplicative of existing advisory committees where dental policy matters are discussed, and in which DHCS participates. In all of these forums, DHCS seeks input, feedback, advice, and recommendations from participants, particularly as it relates to barriers to access to care and how to increase utilization of dental services. The participants in these groups are inclusive of clinicians, advocacy groups, legislative and congressional staff members, beneficiaries, and other state agency staff with the knowledge and expertise in evidenced-based dental practice and scientific literature. DHCS is deeply engaged in these efforts and is committed to remediating identified shortfalls.

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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The Honorable Anthony Cannella
Member of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 5082
Sacramento, CA 95814

Co-Chair and Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Assembly Republican Caucus
Senate Floor Analysis
CHHS Legislative Unit
Department of Finance
GO Deputy Legislative Secretary