

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 19-0593.01 Shelby Ross x4510

**HOUSE BILL 19-1038**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Duran and Lontine,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Ginal and Story,**

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**House Committees**

Public Health Care & Human Services

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING DENTAL SERVICES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN COVERED**  
102 **UNDER THE CHILDREN'S BASIC HEALTH PLAN.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

Current law requires the medical services board to include dental services for eligible children enrolled in a children's basic health plan. The bill requires the board to include dental services to all eligible enrollees, which includes children and pregnant women.

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Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds and declares that nearly 900 pregnant women covered under the  
4 children's basic health plan do not have coverage for dental services.  
5 Approximately 25% of all pregnant women in Colorado lacked dental  
6 insurance in 2016, and roughly 18% of expecting mothers reported not  
7 going to the dentist because they could not afford to go.

8 (2) The general assembly further finds and declares that during  
9 pregnancy, changes to a woman's diet and hormone levels increase her  
10 risk for a number of oral health conditions, including dental caries,  
11 gingivitis, and periodontal disease. Periodontal disease in pregnant  
12 women has been linked to adverse birth outcomes, such as pre-term birth  
13 and low newborn birth weights.

14 (3) Studies show that a mother's prenatal oral health has lifelong  
15 effects on her child's oral health because the bacteria associated with poor  
16 oral health can pass from mother to child with the potential to cause  
17 dental caries in infancy and early childhood. Additionally, tooth decay  
18 remains the most common chronic condition in childhood and  
19 adolescence, and poor oral health among children has been linked to poor  
20 performance in school and increased absences.

21 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25.5-8-107, **amend**  
22 (1) introductory portion and (1)(a)(II) as follows:

23 **25.5-8-107. Duties of the department - schedule of services -**  
24 **premiums - copayments - subsidies - purchase of childhood**  
25 **immunizations.** (1) In addition to any other duties pursuant to this ~~article~~  
26 ARTICLE 8, the department ~~shall have~~ HAS the following duties:

27 (a) (II) In addition to the items specified in ~~subparagraph (I)~~ of

1 ~~this paragraph (a)~~ SUBSECTION (1)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION and any  
2 additional items approved by the medical services board, on and after  
3 January 1, 2001, the medical services board shall include dental services  
4 FOR ALL ENROLLED CHILDREN, AND ON AND AFTER JULY 1, 2019, FOR ALL  
5 ENROLLED PREGNANT WOMEN, in the schedule of health care services.  
6 ~~upon a finding by the board that:~~

7 ~~(A) An adequate number of dentists are willing to provide~~  
8 ~~services to eligible children; and~~

9 ~~(B) The financial resources available to the program are sufficient~~  
10 ~~to fund such services.~~

11 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
12 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
13 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.