

CHAPTER 116

HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING

HOUSE BILL 19-1038

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Duran and Lontine, Arndt, Benavidez, Bird, Buckner, Buentello, Caraveo, Coleman, Cutter, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Galindo, Garnett, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Herod, Hooton, Jackson, Jaquez Lewis, Kennedy, Kipp, Kraft-Tharp, McCluskie, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Roberts, Singer, Sirota, Snyder, Tipper, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Weissman, Becker; also SENATOR(S) Ginal and Story, Bridges, Court, Crowder, Danielson, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Gardner, Gonzales, Lundeen, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Rodriguez, Smallwood, Tate, Todd, Winter, Woodward, Zenzinger, Garcia.

AN ACT**CONCERNING DENTAL SERVICES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN COVERED UNDER THE CHILDREN'S BASIC HEALTH PLAN, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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

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

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

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

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

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

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

(a) (II) In addition to the items specified in ~~subparagraph (f) of this paragraph (a)~~ SUBSECTION (1)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION and any additional items approved by the medical services board, on and after January 1, 2001, the medical services board shall include dental services FOR ALL ENROLLED CHILDREN, AND ON AND AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2019, FOR ALL ENROLLED PREGNANT WOMEN, in the schedule of health care services. ~~upon a finding by the board that:~~

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

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

SECTION 3. Appropriation. (1) For the 2019-20 state fiscal year, \$66,955 is appropriated to the department of health care policy and financing. This appropriation consists of \$45,267 from the children's basic health plan trust created in section 25.5-8-105 (1), C.R.S., and \$21,688 from the healthcare affordability and sustainability fee cash fund created in section 25.5-4-402.4 (5)(a), C.R.S. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation as follows:

(a) \$22,273 from the children's basic health plan trust for medicaid management information system maintenance and projects;

(b) \$10,310 from the children's basic health plan trust for children's basic health plan administration; and

(c) \$34,372, which consists of \$12,684 from the children's basic health plan trust and \$21,688 from the healthcare affordability and sustainability fee cash fund, for children's basic health plan medical and dental costs, which amount is subject to the "(H)" notation as defined in the annual general appropriation act for the same fiscal year.

(2) For the 2019-20 state fiscal year, the general assembly anticipates that the department of health care policy and financing will receive \$372,470 in federal funds to implement this act. The appropriation in subsection (1) of this section is based on the assumption that the department will receive this amount of federal funds to be used as follows:

(a) \$200,459 for medicaid management information system maintenance and projects;

(b) \$39,690 for children's basic health plan administration; and

(c) \$132,321 for children's basic health plan medical and dental costs.

SECTION 4. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: April 16, 2019