



American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

VIA EMAIL – IN SUPPORT OF AB 2028

March 21, 2024

The Honorable Liz Ortega
1021 O Street, Suite 5120
PO Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0020

Dear Assemblymember Ortega:

On behalf of the 9,000 fellows and members of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), and 738 members practicing in California, we commend the Assemblymember's ongoing leadership in the development of AB 2028, an act addressing medical loss ratios for dental plans.

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) are surgically and medically trained doctors of dental medicine (DMD) or dental surgery (DDS) who treat patients suffering from an array of dental, medical and surgical conditions that include facial trauma, temporomandibular joint disorders, third molar and other dental extractions and reconstructive procedures. Unlike most dentists – and due to the unique nature of our training – OMSs accept both medical and dental insurance benefits. Our distinct position straddling both the dental and medical worlds affords us a unique perspective, especially in terms of insurance policies.

Patients and employers invest in insurance coverage with the expectation of receiving adequate value for their premium payments. However, the lack of transparency in current dental insurance practices often leads to a significant portion of premiums being directed towards administrative expenses rather than patient care. This disparity not only undermines the trust between insurers and policyholders but also hinders patient access to essential dental services. In light of the current economic climate and the imperative to enhance patient access to care, it is crucial that we address these issues by streamlining the dental insurance process.

AB 2028 proposes to mandate dental insurers adhere to an 85 percent medical loss ratio (MLR), which aligns with the principles of fairness and accountability as well as with MLRs applied to medical plans under the Affordable Care Act. It ensures that patients receive tangible benefits for their premium payments and promotes transparency within the insurance industry. Furthermore, AB 2028 specifies a rebate to an enrollee or insured when plans do not adhere to the 85 percent mandated MLR, further strengthening the bill's effectiveness in protecting the interests of patients.

While dental and medical insurance operate differently, the fundamental principles of value and transparency should apply universally. Drawing from the success of similar measures implemented for medical plans post the Affordable Care Act, we can be confident in the feasibility and efficacy of enforcing such standards in dental insurance.

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AAOMS firmly believes that AB 2028 represents a significant step towards improving the dental insurance landscape and advancing patient-centric care. We urge you to continue your efforts in championing this bill and bringing about meaningful reforms that will benefit both patients and healthcare providers.

We look forward to working with all parties. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Sandy Guenther of the AAOMS Governmental Affairs Department at 847-678-6200 or sguenther@aaoms.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Egbert, DDS, FACS". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "MAE" being prominent.

Mark A. Egbert, DDS, FACS
AAOMS President

CC: Ashok Veeranki, DDS, FACS, President, CALAOMS
Pamela Congdon, CAE, IOM, Executive Director, CALAOMS
Gary Cooper, Lobbyist, CALAOMS
Karin Wittich, CAE, Executive Director, American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
Srini Varadarajan, JD, Associate Executive Director, Practice Management, Health Policy and Governmental Affairs