



AMERICA'S PEDIATRIC DENTISTS
THE BIG AUTHORITY on little teeth®

Topics:

Here are your choice of topics for your practice legislative testimony that you might make to a congressional committee at your state capital.

1. Fluoridation Referendum

A major city in your state is considering fluoridation (or discontinuing fluoridation, your choice). Your assignment is to explain why community water fluoridation is important for children.

2. Dental Therapy Bill

Senate Bill 541 has been introduced in your state that would allow the licensure of dental therapists. Specifically, the bill would allow dental therapists to provide services such as prophylaxis, fluoride varnish and silver diamine fluoride as well as “simple restorative” services without the supervision of a dentist. Explain why this is (or is not) a good idea to improve access to care for children.

3. Medicaid Dental Audit Issue

Recently some pediatric dentists were audited by your state Medicaid agency and asked to return certain payments in cases where stainless steel crown restorations were placed. The reviewer for the state was a general dentist who insisted that composite restorations were more appropriate because they are cheaper. The state pediatric dental association is asking a legislator to introduce a bill requiring that Medicaid dental audits utilize appropriate peer-to-peer review, meaning that pediatric dental cases are reviewed by a pediatric dentist. Explain why this is important.

4. Insurance Bill

Some of the insurance companies in your state cover preventive dental visits only for children age 3 and older. House Bill 2410, pending in your state’s House of Representatives, would require insurers offering children’s dental insurance to cover dental services starting at age 1. Why should legislators support this bill?

5. Wild Card

There is a bill pending in your state that holds your interest but is not on this list. State your position on the bill and give solid support for your position.

Tough Questions for Advocates

1. Why is dental care so expensive?
2. In view of the risks, do you still recommend fluoride for children?
3. You look too young to be a dentist!
4. We have children on Medicaid in our state who simply can't find a dentist to treat them. What are pediatric dentists doing about that?
5. What's the difference between a pediatric dentist and a regular dentist?
6. Why are you opposed to dental therapists as a way to reach out and get care to low income kids?
7. My child's dentist recommends this fairly expensive treatment called sealants. I've never heard of it. Is it a good idea?
8. What is silver diamine fluoride and why would a dentist turn a child's teeth black?
9. How safe is sedation in a dental office? Children have died just to get a few cavities filled.
10. Do you support Democrats or Republicans when it comes to dental care policies for kids?
11. Our city council introduced an ordinance adding a penny per ounce tax to any bottled or canned drink that has sugar added to it. What do pediatric dentists think of that?
12. Do you recommend a parent stay with her child at all times in a dental office? Isn't that safer than staying in the waiting room?