



Virginia Oral Health Coalition *2014 Sine Die Report*

Comprehensive Dental Benefits for Pregnant Women Enrolled in Medicaid and FAMIS MOMS

Included in the Senate budget was \$3.7 million over the biennium in general funds for comprehensive dental coverage for pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid and FAMIS MOMS. The House of Delegates did not include any funding for dental coverage for pregnant women in their proposed budget.

A final decision of whether or not dental benefits will be provided to Medicaid-eligible pregnant women is part of the overall discussion of Medicaid expansion in Virginia; budget conferees are currently negotiating what line-items may be included or eliminated with or without a Medicaid expansion in the budget.

VaOHC and its partners continue to follow this legislation closely and advocate for this funding to be included in the final budget.

Medicaid Expansion

The debate about whether or not Virginia should expand its Medicaid program is expected to continue even beyond the special session on March 24, with much of the negotiation occurring behind closed doors among the budget conferees.

If Medicaid expands, nearly 400,000 adults in Virginia will gain access to an emergency dental extraction benefit, which reduces emergency department spending and improves oral health.

Deferred Compensation for Medicaid Providers

[SB412](#) and [HB 147](#): Awaiting the Governor's signature

A bill was introduced in the House and the Senate to allow dentists and oral and maxillofacial surgeons who participate in Virginia's Medicaid program to place payment they receive for treating Medicaid patients in a Virginia Retirement System deferred compensation plan; this legislation has passed in both chambers of the legislature and awaits the Governor's signature.

Teledentistry Pilot Program

[SB647](#): Carried until 2015; will not be enacted at this time

This bill created a teledentistry pilot program for underserved children; the bill was continued to the 2015 Session when considered by the House Appropriations committee. The committee expressed concern about the absence of funding in the House budget for the pilot program and members suggested that reforms to Medicaid should occur before new innovative pilot programs could be implemented.

Continuation of a bill until the next Session means that the bill will not become law and the pilot program will not be funded unless the committees considering the legislation meet outside of the regular convened Session and consider legislation, which has almost never happened in recent history. Committees do not meet outside of the regular session.



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Reasonable Assurance of the Pediatric Dental Benefit

[HB33](#): Awaiting the Governor's signature

This bill was introduced to require insurers that offer a health plan outside of the exchange in either the small group or individual market to prominently disclose to consumers upon purchase if a plan does not provide the required essential pediatric dental benefit.

Legislation to Allow Physician Assistants to Apply Fluoride Varnish

[HB1129](#): Signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2014

This bill was introduced to allow a physician assistant (PA) to administer topical fluoride varnish to the teeth of children aged six months to three years has passed in both chambers of the legislature. A physician or dentist must, however, first issue an oral or written order, or have a standing protocol in place that conforms to standards adopted by the Department of Health, before the PA can apply fluoride.

Neighborhood Tax Credits

[SB591](#): Signed by the Governor, effective immediately

This bill addresses an issue raised by a dental safety net provider whose organizational audit occurs after the deadline for NAP credits (which according to the law deemed the application incomplete). The legislation prohibits a proposal for an allocation of Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credits from being deemed untimely if the nonprofit organization's required audit, review, or compilation was not submitted by the proposal filing deadline.

The Virginia Neighborhood Assistance Act provides an income tax credit to business firms and individuals that donate to neighborhood organizations for approved programs that benefit impoverished people.