

An Act relative to financial services contracts for dental benefits corporations (H.1122) →

ABOUT

Under current Massachusetts law, dental benefits companies can set reimbursement fees, even for services that dental benefits companies do not actually reimburse (i.e., veneers, tooth whitening, and/or other cosmetic procedures).

As a result of this unfair and unjustified price cap, the benefits companies force dentists to shift costs to private-pay patients who are, disproportionately, young people, the elderly, and workers whose employers do not offer dental plans.

WHY WE'RE SUPPORTING

An Act relative to financial services contracts for dental benefits corporations prohibits dental benefits companies from treating patients unfairly.

Patients deserve protections that prohibit dental benefits companies from contractually setting fees for services for which they do not provide payment. This would prevent cost shifting to patients who are least able to bear them.

Private-pay patients should not be forced to subsidize the care of other patients with dental plans to protect the bottom line of dental benefits companies.

KEY PROVISIONS

1. Prohibit dental benefits companies from contractually setting fees for services for which they do not provide payment.
2. Ensure that no preferred provider arrangement with a health care provider who is a registered dentist would require the dentist to provide services to a covered person at a particular fee unless the services are covered services.

2023-2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION ADVOCACY PRINCIPLES

- The Massachusetts Dental Society is an advocate for dentists and patients in the Commonwealth. We are dedicated to the professional development of our member dentists and champion access to oral health care for Massachusetts residents.
- We're backing several measures this year that would ensure dental plans are more flexible, transparent, and accountable to the patients they serve.
- We'll continue to work with the Healey administration and the Massachusetts legislature to implement last year's Question 2 ballot measure and defend the will of Massachusetts voters against any attempts to weaken it.

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