

PREVENTIVE CARE (HB 2522)

Legislators should **SUPPORT HB 2522 – Advancing oral health equity by safeguarding patient-centered preventive dental care.**

Prime Bill Sponsor: Representative My-Linh Thai

HB 2522 will improve Washingtonians' oral health by ensuring patients receive medically necessary preventive care and avoid more serious problems requiring invasive and costly treatment. It will require insurance carriers to cover preventive care without imposing restrictions based on age or frequency of service. The bill is also needed because the FDA is moving to restrict access to safe fluoride supplements, a move that could reverse oral health progress.

KEY MESSAGES TO LEGISLATORS

Importance of preventive care:

- *“Dental insurers currently can deny necessary preventive care based on a patient’s age or frequency of visits, increasing the risk of further oral complications.”*
- *“Preventive services like fluoride varnish, sealants, and oral cancer screenings help prevent oral issues from escalating into serious and expensive health conditions.”*

Responding to federal policy changes:

- *“The FDA continues to threaten decades of public health progress by negating fluoride as an effective supplement for oral health.”*
- *“HB 2522 will counteract this federal threat and protect Washington patients by safeguarding proven public health practices.”*

Preserving the doctor-patient relationship:

- *“By allowing dentists — not insurers — to decide what preventive care is medically necessary and consistent with the standard of care, the bill promotes health equity and protects vulnerable populations.”*

WSDA CONTACTS FOR QUESTIONS, FOLLOW-UP

If you have any questions or if a legislator requests a follow-up on an issue, please contact:

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