



April 07, 2025

The Honorable Mia Bonta, Chair
Assembly Health Committee
1020 N Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 371 (Haney) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Bonta:

When timely access to medically necessary care is delayed or denied, patients suffer and medical outcomes are compromised. It is critical that health care plans and insurers, including dental plans, maintain adequate provider networks and adhere to clear standards for both availability of dental services and timeliness of prior authorization.

That’s why the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems – including many that provide dental services – supports Assembly Bill (AB) 371, which will hold commercial dental plans accountable and address several significant challenges that patients face when trying to utilize commercial dental insurance.

Californians are finding it increasingly difficult to locate in-network dentists. This challenge is not due to a shortage of dentists, but rather a result of dental plans failing to offer adequate networks for consumers. Current California law mandates that the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) and the California Department of Insurance (CDI) assess the network adequacy of commercial dental plans to ensure they have enough providers to meet the needs of their enrollees. Due to limited in-network options, many patients are forced to seek care from out-of-network providers, who may not honor their assignment of benefits. Patients should not be penalized for choosing to see an out-of-network dentist, especially when their plan fails to provide an adequate network.

AB 371 will improve access and transparency by:

- Requiring dental plans to submit network information on all lines of commercial dental products (including Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 plans) to DMHC and CDI when determining if a plan is meeting network adequacy standards
- Setting more appropriate time and distance standards for dental plans that more closely mirror such standards for primary care
- Requiring dental plans to comply with assignment of benefits requests from enrollees

For these reasons, **CHA supports AB 371 and requests your “AYE” vote on this measure.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kalyn Dean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kalyn Dean
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Matt Haney
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Health Committee
Logan Hess, Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Justin Bowman, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus