The California Society of Pediatric Dentistry (CSPD) Position on SB501:

August 28, 2018


Safety, Sedation, and Legislation. Our members put children first in everything they do, and at the highest standards of ethics and patient safety. As such, CSPD is THE leading advocate in the State of California dedicated exclusively to children’s oral health. We are the embodiment of our members’ expertise as the authorities and experts on pediatric oral health.

Through our Patient Services Committee, CSPD developed “The California Society of Pediatric Dentistry Position Statement and Legislative Policy Regarding Minimal, Moderate and Deep Sedation/General Anesthesia Used During Dental Treatment of Children”. On July 19, 2018, the CSPD Board of Directors Approved and Adopted this position statement and legislative policy which guides CSPD in its position on legislation regarding the practice of minimal, moderate, and deep sedation/general anesthesia used during dental treatment of children.

The Dental Board of California has concluded that California’s present laws, regulations, and policies are sufficient to provide protection for pediatric patients during dental sedation. CSPD appreciates and values laws, regulations and polices that provide protection for pediatric patients during dental sedation.

- CSPD values the Culture of Safety. The core of the present legislative discussion from AB224 and SB501 is about safety in sedation.

"The discussion of Safety in Sedation was brought up predominantly by incidents that occurred during Deep Sedation or General Anesthesia."

- The big issue is Safety in Deep Sedation and General Anesthesia, specifically the Operator Anesthetist Model of Practice on Children of California.

- SB 501 falls short on Safety at the Deep and GA levels of sedation. It ignores it.

For example, SB 501 has two different sets of requirements for differing pediatric age groups, and it has different numbers of support personnel to be present during moderate sedation. These requirements are not in line with the current best practices of the AAP/AAPD guidelines.

When it comes to Sedation on Children for Dental Procedures, The American Dental Association defers to the experts in Pediatric Medicine and Pediatric Dentistry, The American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry respectively. The California Society of Pediatric Dentistry is the Official State Chapter of AAPD.

Therefore, CSPD Opposes SB501 unless amended to mirror at all levels of sedation the AAP/AAPD Best Practices on Monitoring and Management of Pediatric Dental Patients, Before, During and After Sedation for Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures: Update 2016 and The 2018-2019 AAPD Best Practices on Use of Anesthesia Providers in the Administration of Office-based Deep Sedation/General Anesthesia to the Pediatric Dental Patient.

Sincerely,

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