

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [De Asis, Edward \(BOS\)](#); [BOS-Operations](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: File #260224 – Urging Protection of Medi-Cal Dental Funding for California Children – SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 12:03:16 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-1f1bkmh.png](#)
[2026.03.09 - Urging Protection of Medi-Cal Dental Funding for California Children - HealthRIGHT 360 - SUPPORT.pdf](#)

Dear Supervisors,

Please see below and attached, from HealthRIGHT 360, regarding:

File No. 260224 - Resolution urging the Governor and State Legislature to protect Medi-Cal Dental funding for California children; and reject proposed cuts and to fully restore funding in the 2026 state budget.

Regards,

Richard Lagunte
Office of the Clerk of the Board
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
Voice (415) 554-5184 | Fax (415) 554-5163
bos@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

Pronouns: he, him, his

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From: Wesley Saver <wsaver@healthright360.org>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 5:59 PM
To: Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>
Cc: Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Tsai, Daniel (DPH) <daniel.tsai@sfdph.org>; Linda Kuo <lkuo@healthright360.org>
Subject: File #260224 – Urging Protection of Medi-Cal Dental Funding for California Children –

SUPPORT

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Dear President Mandelman and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of HealthRIGHT 360, please find attached our letter in support of the resolution urging Governor Gavin Newsom and the California Legislature to protect and fully restore Medi-Cal Dental funding for California children in the 2026 state budget.

We appreciate your leadership in safeguarding children's health and ensuring access to essential dental care for San Francisco's most vulnerable children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wes

--

Wesley Saver (he/him)
Managing Director of Policy & Public Affairs



Get Better. Do Better. Be Better.

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March 9, 2026

The Honorable Rafael Mandelman
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org



Get Better. Do Better. Be Better.

Submitted via Electronic Mail

Re: File #260224 – Urging Protection of Medi-Cal Dental Funding for California Children – SUPPORT

Dear President Mandelman and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

HealthRIGHT 360 strongly supports the resolution urging Governor Gavin Newsom and the California Legislature to protect and fully restore Medi-Cal Dental funding for California children in the 2026 state budget. Access to dental care is essential to safeguarding children's health, educational outcomes, and long-term well-being in San Francisco and across California.

HealthRIGHT 360's San Francisco dental program provides comprehensive adult and pediatric services to vulnerable populations, including individuals experiencing homelessness, poverty, and complex health needs. Our services include preventive care, emergency walk-ins, cleanings, fluoride varnish, extractions, fillings, crowns, root canals, and specialized pediatric procedures. Our experience demonstrates that timely dental care prevents pain, infection, avoidable emergency room visits, and school absences while supporting both health equity and educational attainment.

Medi-Cal Dental provides critical access to care for millions of low-income children statewide. The proposed \$144 million reduction in the 2026 budget, which would also forfeit approximately \$182 million in federal matching funds, represents a fraction of the state budget yet would have significant and lasting consequences for children's health. Reducing funding undermines prevention, shifts costs to emergency and acute care settings, and risks reversing the modest infrastructure and access gains achieved in recent years.

Local data further illustrate the fragility of the dental safety-net. A 2025 access study found that one-third of Medi-Cal dental providers in San Francisco were unavailable to new patients, with disparities in appointment access for Spanish- and Cantonese-speaking families.¹ Kindergarten screenings show that approximately one-third of children have experienced cavities and one-fourth have untreated decay, with rates exceeding 40 percent in neighborhoods such as Bayview-Hunters Point.² Protecting Medi-Cal Dental funding is directly aligned with the priorities outlined in the *San Francisco*

¹ Gutierrez, I., Govind, A., & Demirel, S. (2025). Comprehensive Dentistry Appointment Availability for Northern California Adults with Medicaid. *Journal of the California Dental Association*, 53(1).

<https://doi.org/10.1080/19424396.2025.2525125>

² CavityFree SF. Community-based Children's Oral Health Task Forces. <https://www.cavityfreesf.org/taskforces/>

Children's Oral Health Strategic Plan 2026–2030, which calls for strengthening preventive care systems and expanding access for children most at risk of untreated dental disease.³

We respectfully urge the Board to adopt this resolution and advocate for full restoration and protection of Medi-Cal Dental funding for children. Doing so safeguards access to care, advances health equity, and promotes the well-being of San Francisco's most vulnerable children.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to children's health. For further information, please contact me at wsaver@healthright360.org

Sincerely,



Wesley Saver
Managing Director of Policy & Public Affairs
HealthRIGHT 360
wsaver@healthright360.org

Cc: San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org
Dr. Daniel Tsai, Director, San Francisco Department of Public Health, Daniel.Tsai@sfdph.org
Linda Kuo, Dental Director, HealthRIGHT 360, LKuo@healthright360.org

³ CavityFree SF. San Francisco Children's Oral Health Strategic Plan 2026–2030. February 19, 2026.
https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/PRINT_Cavity_Free_SF_Strategic_Plan.cleaned.pdf