



ABOUT CAO

The California Association of Orthodontists (CAO) is the Californian component of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO)—the largest and oldest dental specialty organization. The CAO represents nearly 1,500 orthodontic members who practice in California. CAO members are specialists who have completed dental school and then successfully completed 2–3 years of additional training at an accredited orthodontic residency program. Our members are experts in diagnosing and treating all orthodontic problems in patients of all ages—from child to adult. CAO is engaged in legislative advocacy to protect patient health and improve access to care.

MISSION

CAO's mission is to:

- Support its members in their pursuit of excellence during their practice of orthodontics
- Promote the values of ethical practice as defined by the American Association of Orthodontists
- Advocate for its members in issues related to professional governance and regulation
- Provide continuing education opportunities for members
- Encourage the public to seek an orthodontic specialist when considering comprehensive orthodontic treatment

SUPPORTED LEGISLATION

AB 236 (Holden D): Health care coverage: provider directories

This bill aims to improve the accuracy of provider directories maintained by healthcare plans and insurers. It sets benchmarks for accuracy, requires annual verification and deletion of inaccurate listings, and mandates coverage for services provided by listed providers even if the information is incorrect. Penalties are imposed for failure to meet accuracy benchmarks.

AB 481 (Carrillo, Wendy D): Dentistry: dental assistants

This bill proposes revisions to the Dental Practice Act, impacting the licensure and responsibilities of dental assistants. It also addresses permits for orthodontic assistants and dental sedation assistants.

AB 1926 (Connolly D): Health care coverage: chronic digestive diseases and inherited metabolic disorders

This bill expands coverage under the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975 to include formulas for treating chronic digestive diseases and inherited metabolic disorders, effective from July 1, 2025.

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AB 2242 (Carrillo, Wendy D): Dentistry: dental assistants

This bill seeks to revise provisions of the Dental Practice Act regarding the licensure and functions of dental assistants, orthodontic assistants, and dental sedation assistants.

SB 980 (Wahab D): Medi-Cal: dental crowns and implants

This bill proposes extending Medi-Cal coverage for laboratory-processed crowns to individuals aged 13 and older and includes coverage for dental implants when medically necessary.

SB 1369 (Limón D): Dental providers: fee-based payments

This bill mandates that health care service plans and insurance policies issued on or after January 1, 2025, offering payment to dental providers adopt a non-fee-based default payment method, with provisions for opting into a fee-based payment method.

KEY CONTACTS

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