



Senator Jerry Hill  
Business, Professions, and  
Economic Development, Committee Chair  
State Capitol, Room 2053  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Jerry Hill

**Re: Pediatric Anesthesia and Dental Care.**

On behalf of the over 4000 children with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in our Valley Mountain Regional Center catchment area (Calaveras, Amador, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin counties) we wish to submit the following comments to the Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee as you deliberate on the issue of pediatric anesthesia and dental care.

It is our experience that for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), many dentists or managed Medi-Cal plans want the child to have seen a dentist without anesthesia and try oral sedation first. For many of our consumers, even getting them to into a dentist office and have them open their mouths is impossible, and it is clearly a formality and exercise in futility to force these children with behavioral disabilities to prove they warrant access to anesthesia when a clinician with an expertise in IDD and Behavioral Health disciplines could assess the child's capacity for lower level intervention. This is a real barrier to care. Also, some managed care Medi-Cal plans deny the anesthesia routinely, while others approve with documentation, inconsistent. The result is a highly traumatic experience for children with disabilities and their families.

Thank you for your attention to this important topic.

Sincerely



Tony Anderson  
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Valley Mountain Regional Center  
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cc:

**Committee Members**

Senator Patricia C. Bates (Vice Chair)

Senator Bill Dodd

Senator Cathleen Galgiani (Valley Mountain Regional Center District Senator)

Senator Steven M. Glazer

Senator Ed Hernandez

Senator Josh Newman

Senator Richard Pan

Senator Scott Wilk

**Valley Mountain Regional Center District Senator**

Assembly member Susan Eggman

Assembly member Jim Cooper

Assembly member Heath Flora

Assembly member Frank Bigelow,

Assembly member Adam Gray

Senator Anthony Cannella

Senator Tom Berryhill