

SENATE BILL NO. 258

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR HUGGINS

Introduced: 2/5/10

Referred: Health and Social Services, Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act prohibiting health care insurers that provide dental care coverage from setting**
2 **a minimum age for receiving dental care coverage, allowing those insurers to set a**
3 **maximum age for receiving dental care coverage as a dependent, and prohibiting those**
4 **insurers from setting fees that a dentist may charge for dental services not covered**
5 **under the insurer's policy."**

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

7 *** Section 1.** AS 21.42.392(a) is amended to read:

8 (a) A health care insurer who provides coverage for dental care may not
9 include in the health care insurance plan or contract a provision that

10 (1) prohibits a covered person from obtaining dental care services from
11 a dentist of the person's choice, including a specialist;

12 (2) restricts a covered person's right to receive full information from
13 the person's dentist regarding the care or treatment options that the dentist believes are

1 in the best interests of the person;

2 **(3) sets a minimum age for receiving dental care coverage; or**

3 **(4) permits an insurer to limit a fee set by a dentist for a service**

4 **unless the service is covered under the insurer's plan or contract.**

5 * **Sec. 2.** AS 21.42.392(c) is amended to read:

6 (c) A health care insurer **that provides coverage for dental care** may

7 **(1)** reimburse a covered person at a different rate because of the
8 person's choice of a dentist if the dentist is not a part of the covered person's dental
9 network or preferred provider organization agreement; **the** [. THE] covered expense
10 for non-network providers may not be less than that allowed to a network provider,
11 although the covered expense may be reimbursed at a lower percentage or with higher
12 deductibles than if the service had been provided within the network; **and**

13 **(2) set the maximum age for a person to receive coverage for**
14 **dental care as a dependent.**