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**Governor Newsom Signs Landmark Dental Care Bill AB 341 into Law**  
*A major victory for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families*

**SACRAMENTO, CA** -- In a major victory for California's disability community, Governor Gavin Newsom signed [AB 341](#) into law on Friday, October 11, 2025. This landmark legislation, authored by Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula, marks a major step toward transforming how Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities receive dental care.

Sponsored by The Arc and UCP California Collaboration, this groundbreaking legislation establishes the Oral Health for People with Disabilities Technical Assistance Center Program, a first-of-its-kind statewide effort to improve dental care by reducing or eliminating the need for treatment using sedation and general anesthesia.

"I'm grateful to Governor Newsom and to my legislative colleagues for supporting AB 341. All Californians should have access to quality and timely dental care, including those with developmental disabilities. It's vital that we provide alternative methods of care so that their treatment isn't too long delayed, which can lead to severe complications," said Arambula. "I'm proud to have worked with The Arc & UCP on this bill to help ensure that everyone in our State can live independent lives."

Under AB 341, the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will contract with a California dental school or partnership to administer the new program. Together, they will:

- Engage up to 21 regional centers statewide to participate in program implementation.
- Provide practical training, systems development, and clinical expertise to improve how dental care is delivered to people with developmental disabilities.
- Enlist dental offices and clinics to participate and build local teams of community-based allied dental personnel to serve people with disabilities.
- Design and support customized operational systems in each region, integrating the dental and disability service networks.
- Deliver initial and ongoing training, monitoring, and data collection to ensure quality and sustainability.
- Convene a statewide advisory committee and learning community to guide continuous improvement.

Each participating regional center will also identify clients who could benefit from the program, particularly those who have experienced long waits for dental procedures under anesthesia or are likely to face them

in the future. Centers must designate a lead staff member for oral health coordination, create vendor agreements with participating dental professionals, and track patient progress and program outcomes.

For families, this shift from reactive to preventive care is deeply personal. Pat Hornbecker, parent advocate and President of The Arc of California's Board of Directors, said her adult son Joseph recently underwent dental surgery after years of waiting for access to sedation-based treatment.

"Joseph waited over two years for dental surgery simply because he requires sedation and there were no providers available who could meet his needs," Hornbecker said. "Too many families have lived this same reality. AB 341 gives us hope that our loved ones will finally have access to dental care that doesn't depend on anesthesia or hospital space."

Jordan Lindsey, Executive Director of The Arc of California, praised the law as a turning point in oral health equity.

"This is a transformational moment for California's disability community," Lindsey said. "AB 341 fundamentally changes how our state approaches dental care by focusing on prevention, training, and inclusion instead of crisis-based intervention. It's a model that can save time, money, and most importantly, pain for thousands of Californians with disabilities."

The Arc and UCP California Collaboration is grateful to the many families, advocates, and professionals who raised their voices in support of this historic legislation. "This success shows what's possible when policymakers and advocates work side by side to build systems of care that reflect real needs," Lindsey added.

Implementation begins immediately. DDS and its contracted dental partner will work with participating regional centers to launch training programs and begin collecting data to track progress through 2033. Annual reports to the Legislature will monitor program performance and outcomes statewide.

To stay informed and learn more about how AB 341 will improve oral health for people with disabilities at [thearcca.org](http://thearcca.org).

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## **About The Arc of California**

Established in 1950, The Arc of California promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. The Arc of California provides supports and services to thousands of individuals with disabilities and their families through its 20 chapters across the state.