

June 29, 2023

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of America's health care professionals, we are writing to you to urge that you take action on health workforce issues. Inadequate numbers and maldistribution of health care professionals mean a lack of access to health care for many Americans, and legislative solutions are needed to broaden the health workforce pipeline and to get health workers where they are most needed.

The COVID-19 public health emergency created massive shifts in the health workforce and exacerbated already existing workforce problems. Financial instability compounded the stress of paying off student loans for many providers, and burnout led others to leave the health care field altogether. These shifts have made geographical and population disparities more acute. At the same time, it has become more difficult for physicians, dentists, hospitals, and other health care facilities to find allied health professional staff. Despite intensive candidate searches and offers of new employment inducements, staff vacancies remain that limit the number of patients who can receive care. Ultimately, if these health workforce challenges are not met, it means limited access to health care for Americans.

While we are not writing to you today to advocate for specific legislation, we do wish to call your attention to several general policy areas. All health care providers face financial challenges when practicing in underserved communities that could be alleviated by changes to tax policy. Student loan relief may encourage more young people interested in health professions to join the workforce, while also smoothing the path into underserved communities. Funding workforce grant programs and public service programs can also alleviate geographical and population access to care disparities. We also welcome your ideas for legislation in other policy areas that will lead to a health workforce that can meet the needs of Americans.

If you are interested in joining America's health care professionals in finding solutions to health workforce problems so that more Americans can have access to the health care they need, please contact Mike Graham at [grahamm@ada.org](mailto:grahamm@ada.org).

Sincerely,

American Dental Association  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology  
American Academy of Periodontology  
American Association of Endodontists  
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
[American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons](#)  
American Association of Orthodontists  
American College of Prosthodontics  
American College of Rheumatology  
American Osteopathic Association  
[American Society for Radiation Oncology](#)  
American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists  
American Student Dental Association  
American Urological Association  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions  
[The Society of Thoracic Surgeons](#)