



Dental Workforce

S. 2891, Action for Dental Health Act

Dental practices in America are facing a workforce problem that is limiting access to care.

A recent American Dental Association (ADA) survey of dentists demonstrated the acuteness of oral health workforce issues, as one-third of dentists are actively recruiting dental hygienists and dental assistants, and 87% of dentists told the ADA that recruiting for these positions is extremely challenging. These challenges came despite new incentives offered to prospective dental team members. Dental practice staffing difficulties limit the number of patients dentists can see, thus posing an obstacle to access to dental care.

That is why the ADA is urging you to help strengthen access to dental care by supporting **S.2891, the Action for Dental Health Act of 2023**, which was introduced by Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Ted Budd (R-NC). This legislation addresses critical gaps in the oral health workforce. The Action for Dental Health (ADH) has supported many state-based efforts to reduce dental disease through oral health education, expanding the oral health workforce and placing providers in areas with the greatest need, and decreasing emergency department visits by establishing dental homes, among other important initiatives.

The ADA supports S. 2891, to reauthorize the Action for Dental Health which would:

- Extend funding for ADH through fiscal year 2026.
- Support workforce training and oral health programs with the goal of delivering care to people suffering from dental disease where better access to care is most needed.
- Strengthen and expand the public/private safety net and bring dental health education and disease prevention into underserved communities.

On March 7th, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the companion bill, H.R. 3843, the Action for Dental Health Act of 2023.

The ADA urges you to join the efforts of America's dentists and your colleagues in the House to address the oral health needs of underserved populations, and support improvements in the dental workforce to get dental professionals where they are most needed.

As dentists and dental students, we ask that you cosponsor the Action for Dental Health Act of 2023 (S. 2891).

Information:

Jennifer Fisher
Congressional Lobbyist
American Dental Association
fisherj@ada.org
202.789.5160