

April 4, 2023

The Honorable Mike Simpson, D.M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson:

On behalf of the 159,000 dentist members of the American Dental Association (ADA), we are writing to thank you for introducing H.R. 1422, the Strengthening Medicaid Incentives for Licensees Enrolled in Dental (SMILED) Act.

As you know, this legislation would reduce administrative burdens for dentists who participate in Medicaid. In order to help ensure access to care, a strong network of dentists is needed to see the patients served by Medicaid. Unfortunately, however, administrative requirements often discourage dentists from signing up for, or staying in, the Medicaid program.

The SMILED Act would reduce administrative burdens by simplifying credentialing so that dentists do not have to wait a long time to become Medicaid providers. This bill would encourage states to use an integrated system such as CAQH to minimize paperwork and complete the credentialing process within 90 days.

Additionally, H.R. 1422 would reduce unfair Medicaid audits by requiring that they be performed by a dentist from the same specialty and be based on clinical practice guidelines from the ADA and other dental organizations.

Thank you again for introducing the SMILED Act. The ADA looks forward to continuing to work with you on this important legislation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Natalie Hales at halesn@ada.org.

Sincerely,

George R. Shepley, D.D.S.
President

Raymond A. Cohlma, D.D.S.
Executive Director

GRS:RAC:nh