

October 2, 2023

The Honorable Cory Booker  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Budd  
United States Senate  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senate  
109 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Booker, Budd, and Hirono:

On behalf of the over 159,000 members of the American Dental Association (ADA), we are writing to thank you for introducing S. 2891, the Action for Dental Health Act of 2023. We support this bipartisan legislation which would reauthorize the Action for Dental Health (ADH) program, a crucial workforce grant program focused on providing access to care for those most in need.

Workforce issues are among the ADA's top priorities as one-third of dentists have told the ADA that they are actively recruiting dental hygienists and dental assistants, and 87% of dentists tell the ADA that recruiting for these positions is extremely challenging despite incentives offered to prospective dental team members. Dental practice staffing difficulties limit the number of patients dentists can see, and this problem is especially acute in underserved areas.

As you know, the ADA has long championed the ADH program, which provides federal grants for the dental health needs of underserved populations. ADH funding is directed towards dental disease prevention through improved oral health education, reduction of geographic and language barriers, and improved access to care, among other initiatives. Programs supported by ADH advance the important goal of decreasing dental health disparities in communities where better access to care is most needed.

Once again, we thank you for your attention to dental workforce issues and to ADH. The nation's dentists stand ready to work with you to ensure Americans have a sufficient dental workforce to meet their oral health needs. We look forward to working with you to advance this important bipartisan legislation. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact Natalie Hales at 202-898-2404 or [Halesn@ada.org](mailto:Halesn@ada.org).

Sincerely,

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

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

GRS:RAC:nh