

Council on Government Affairs (CGA)
Unofficial Report of Major Actions
February 7-9, 2019

The Council on Government Affairs met February 7-9, 2019 in the Washington D.C. office. The following is a summary of major actions taken by the Council.

1. The Council received an update on the 116th Congress and potential legislative focus.
2. The Council received updates on Action for Dental Health implementation and additional appropriations for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration.
3. The Council received an update from ADA Executive Director Dr. Kathleen O'Loughlin on the strategic plan, the Practice Transitions pilot projects and the budget.
4. The Council received an overview on the Fight Insurer Interference Strategic Task Force (FIIST), created from the adoption of Res. 32H-2018, and discussed federal legislative efforts to address concerns over third-party payer issues.
5. The Council received an update on Res. 53H-2018 from Dr. Marcelo Araujo on the importance of the HPV vaccine and the role of the profession in educating patients on oropharyngeal cancer.
6. The Council received an update and overview of the efforts of the Surgeon General to release an updated report on oral health in 2020, including the ADA's participation in the November listening session.
7. The Council adopted a resolution requesting that the ADA President transmit a letter to the coalition affirming ADA commitment to advocacy on behalf of Medicare recipients for coverage for dental treatment which is required to be completed in order for life saving medical procedures to be authorized and performed. The Council also urged the ADA President to convey the willingness of the Association to be supportive of the coalition only if advocacy efforts are clearly focused and limited to coverage of medically essential dental care.
8. The Council discussed the broader issue of Medicare and legislative activity in the 116th Congress specifically regarding S. 22, the Medicare Dental Benefit Act of 2019, sponsored by Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD).
9. The Council received an update on the activities of the State Public Affairs Workgroup and current legislative efforts in the states impacting dentistry.
10. The Council discussed a draft memorandum of understanding with the Veterans' Administration that would allow for collaboration to improve access to oral health care services for veterans.
11. The Council received presentations from the following representatives from the Federal Dental Services: Rear Admiral Tim Ricks, United States Public Health Services; Rear Admiral Gayle Shaffer, United States Navy; Brigadier General Sharon Bannister, United States Air Force; Brigadier General Shan Bagby, United States Army; Drs. Greg Smith, Scott Trapp, Owais Farooqi, Veterans Administration; and Colonel Cecilia Garin, Department of Defense Health Affairs.

12. The Council discussed the VET CARE Act of 2019 and adopted a resolution to support the VET CARE Act of 2019 in concept until additional information is received.

CGA Council Members:

Dr. Craig Armstrong, Chair, TX
Dr. Phil Fijal, Vice-Chair, IL
Dr. Deborah Bishop, AL
Dr. Daniel Cheek, NC
Dr. Matt Cohlma, OK
Dr. Mark Desrosiers, CT
Dr. John Hisel, ID
Dr. Lisa Knowles, MI
Dr. Zacharias Kalarickal, FL
Dr. Lauro Medrano-Saldano, NY
Dr. Matthew Messina, OH
Dr. Dr. Robin Nguyen, FL, New Dentist Committee
Dr. David Reitz, PA
Dr. Leon Stanislav, TN
Dr. Ariane Terlet, CA
Dr. Mark Vitale, NJ
Dr. David White, NV
Dr. Emily Willett, NE

Liaisons:

Dr. Dan Klemmedson, Trustee-Liaison, Fourteenth Trustee District, AZ
Dr. Tommy Harrison, chair, American Dental Political Action Committee, TX
Dr. Richard Herman, chair, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention, NY
Ms. Janette Sonnenberg, Alliance of the American Dental Association, UT
Ms. Lauren Yap, American Student Dental Association, PA

The Council will meet August 1-3, 2019 in Washington, DC.