

## **Council on Government Affairs Unofficial Report of Major Actions January 29-30, 2021**

The Council on Government Affairs (CGA) met virtually on January 29-30, 2021. The following is a summary of major actions taken by the Council:

1. The Council discussed the incident at the Capitol on January 6. A motion was proposed and withdrawn. The American Dental Political Action Committee (ADPAC) agreed to appoint two members of CGA (Dr. John Reitz and Dr. Matthew Roberts) to the ADPAC workgroup.
2. The Council received an update from the Congressional lobbyists on McCarran-Ferguson reform now that the Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act has been signed into law.
3. The Council heard presentations from the following representatives of the Federal Dental Services: Rear Admiral Timothy Ricks, USPHS; Captain Renée Joskow, USPHS; Colonel Stephen Tanner, USA; Colonel Peter Guevara, USA; Rear Admiral Rick Freedman, USN; Captain Rebecca Lee, USN; Brigadier General Sharon Bannister, USAF; Colonel Ender Ozgul, USAF; Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Grabowski, USAF; Dr. Scott Trapp, VA; Dr. Peter Gerngross, VA; Colonel Christensen Hsu, DoD Health Affairs; and Colonel Jay Graver, DoD Health Affairs.
4. The Council listened to remarks from the following chairs of other ADA Councils: Dr. Randall Markarian, Council on Dental Benefit Programs; Dr. Ana Bedran-Russo, Council on Scientific Affairs; Dr. Duc "Duke" Ho, Council on Dental Practice; Dr. Jessica Meeske, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention; Dr. Stephen Ortego, American Dental Political Action Committee; Dr. Sam Mansour, Council on Communications; Dr. Jeff Kahl, Council on Membership.
5. The Council heard a presentation on the Biden administration from Mr. Bob Hickmott, senior vice president, The Smith-Free Group.
6. The Council received an update from the Military workgroup, including on issues such as the VA Innovation Center (VIC) pilot program and reservists. Captain Steven Blaustein from the Navy and Colonel Stephen Tanner from the Army joined the reservist discussion.
7. The Council had a discussion on higher education issues and received an update on the ADA Task Force to Study Innovations for Alternate Student Loan Repayment Strategies.
8. The Council heard an update from the Diversity workgroup and had a discussion.
9. The Council adopted motions to retain, rescind, or amend thirteen Association policies, in accordance with the policy titled Regular Comprehensive Policy Review (Trans.2010:603; 2012:370), and to seek feedback from several secondary Councils before sending any formal resolutions or reports to the 2021 House of Delegates.

10. The Council heard an update from the In-Office Dental Plans workgroup, including state laws on these plans.
11. The Council received an update from the Medicaid workgroup.
12. The Council spoke about the results of its 2020 priorities survey, as well as the priorities for the coming year.
13. The Council discussed the orientation program.

**CGA Members:**

Dr. David White, chair, NV  
Dr. Mark Vitale, vice chair, NJ  
Dr. Abe Abdul, MA  
Dr. John Blake, CA  
Dr. David Clemens, WI  
Dr. Matthew Cohlma, OK  
Dr. Mark Crabtree, VA  
Dr. Steven Feldman, DC  
Dr. Daniel Gesek, FL  
Dr. Greg Goggans, GA  
Dr. John Hisel, ID  
Dr. Matthew Messina, OH  
Dr. Raymond Miller, NY  
Dr. John Reitz, PA  
Dr. Matthew Roberts, TX  
Dr. Leon Stanislav, TN  
Dr. Cheryl Watson-Lowry, IL  
Dr. Emily Willett, NE

**Liaisons:**

Mr. Sebastian Celis Cifuentes, American Student Dental Association, NY  
Ms. Susan Hadnot, Alliance of the American Dental Association, MT  
Dr. Jay Harrington, Trustee-Liaison, Fifth Trustee District, GA  
Dr. Jessica Meeske, chair, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention, NE  
Dr. Stephen Ortego, chair, American Dental Political Action Committee, LA

**The Council will meet on August 21-22, 2021.**