

November 18, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

The American Dental Association (ADA) and its 163,000 members would like to thank Congress for its efforts to combat the challenging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We urge Congress to consider another coronavirus relief package and want to highlight a number of policies that are crucial to ensuring the safety and economic stability of dental practices across the country. We believe that an additional relief package will help to guarantee that patients receive the oral health care that is critical to maintaining their overall health.

Although Congress has taken important steps to support small businesses, many small businesses in the dental community continue to face challenges that require action and assistance. During this time, we respectfully request you consider assisting dental practices and their patients by:

- Providing tax credits to small businesses for the purchase of additional personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety improvements to the office.
- Offering states fiscal relief targeted at preventing state Medicaid budgets from cutting adult dental benefits.
- Giving temporary and targeted liability protection to small businesses that follow applicable public health guidelines during the pandemic, including dentists who conduct FDA-approved tests and administer FDA-approved vaccines.
- Extending the deferment of payments and interest on federal student loans and considering policies that would provide deferments for privately held student loans.
- Providing additional flexibility for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, which 90% of dentists surveyed applied for,¹ by allowing borrowers to:
 - Deduct expenses paid for with PPP loans.
 - Take advantage of the Employee Retention Tax Credit.
 - Utilize a more streamlined forgiveness process.

¹ American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute, "COVID-19: Economic Impact on Dental Practices," [Survey](#), September 2020.

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- Access additional PPP loans and permitting 501(c)(6) organizations to apply for new PPP funds.
- Use future PPP loans to purchase PPE.
- Incentivizing health care practitioners to work in health-disadvantaged communities that have been further undermined by COVID-19 by providing tax credits, federal grants, additional student loan repayment, and other assistance.

Many thanks for your work on these important issues. If you have any questions, please have your staff contact Chris Tampio at 202-789-5178 or tampioc@ada.org. Additional information is also available at ADA.org/covid19advocacy.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Klemmedson, D.D.S, M.D.
President

Kathleen T. O'Loughlin, D.M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director

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