

February 15, 2022

Carole Johnson
Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Administrator Johnson:

On behalf of our 162,000 members, the American Dental Association (ADA) would like to welcome you back to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and congratulate you on your appointment as Administrator of the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). Your experience in HHS and in the White House as the COVID-19 testing coordinator, as well as your health policy expertise, will be crucial to the Biden-Harris administration's efforts to increase access to health care, address health workforce shortages, and improve the delivery of health care.

We look forward to working with you and your HRSA colleagues on the following issues:

- Addressing dental workforce shortages through Title VII oral health training grants;
- Expanding efforts to increase the dental workforce in underserved communities and among underserved populations through the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program;
- Continuing to fund the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program, including the National Students to Service Loan Repayment Program;
- Expediting Provider Relief Fund (PRF) reconsideration applications;
- Improving public and medical provider education about oral health in order to meet the HHS Healthy People target for utilization of the oral health care system;
- Addressing oral health disparities in order to achieve optimal oral health for all people through research and data collection, positively impacting social determinants of oral health, reinforcing the integral role of oral health in overall health, supporting cultural competency and diversity in dental treatment, and advancing disease prevention education;
- Continuing to prioritize Integration of Oral Health and Primary Care Practice (IOHPCP);

- Reforming health professional shortage area (HPSAs) scoring, including reiterating that the scoring criteria is not based solely on the population-to-provider ratio; fixing misleading scoring considerations, such as community water fluoridation or not counting National Health Service Corps providers; and utilizing ADA Health Policy Institute data on supply of dentists and geographic access to care to determine the HPSAs;
- Addressing parity between dental case management and medical case management;
- Training Medicaid auditors to ensure that dental program integrity is fair and efficient without jeopardizing access to care;
- Ensuring loan repayment equity for early career-dentists in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) with added clarity on eligible HPSA scores;
- Giving loan repayment to dentists collaborating with addiction specialists;
- Supporting medical-dental collaboration projects which integrate oral health into primary care settings, and “warm hand-offs” from hospital emergency departments into dental settings;
- Promoting the value of Community Water Fluoridation as a safe, cost effective, healthy, and equitable disease prevention strategy within community based programs; and
- Addressing maternal and child dental needs such as sealants and access to care for pregnant women.

The ADA also urges you to install a HRSA Chief Dental Officer who can oversee all of these important efforts.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we can meet these challenges together. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Corey McGee at 202-789-5175 or mcgeec@ada.org.

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Sincerely,

/s/

Cesar R. Sabates, D.D.S.
President

/s/

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

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