

July 21, 2021

The Honorable Anthony Brown
1323 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Brown:

On behalf of our 162,000 members, the American Dental Association (ADA) would like to thank you for introducing H.R. 4510, the Health Enterprise Zones Act. We offer our strong support for this legislation as we believe that it is vitally important to address health equity issues such as barriers to oral health care so that all Americans have the opportunity to become healthy.

As you know, Maryland led the way in Health Enterprise Zones and its success will undoubtedly shape how a national program can further achieve results in underserved communities. Dentistry is essential health care and integral to a person's overall systemic health. With this legislation, we believe attracting dentists to underserved communities through tax incentives, grants and student loan repayment options will help underserved Americans obtain needed access to dental care. Attracting more dentists to these underserved communities would also help expand oral health education and prevention and establish a permanent dental home for patients to receive both routine and complex care.

The ADA in particular is proud to support the grant funding for dental equipment and mobile dental clinics which recognizes the important role that mobile dental units play in bringing care to underserved areas and populations. Community-based care like mobile units are integral to the ADA's Action for Dental Health (ADH) initiative. Through ADH, dentists are making a difference in underserved communities by reducing the number of adults and children with untreated dental disease. Congress supported this initiative through the passage of ADH (P.L. 115-302, section 3) and H.R. 4510 would be an additional investment in these efforts. The incentives outlined in the Health Enterprise Zones Act of 2021 would amplify the ADA's commitment to helping all Americans attain their best oral health.

Passage of H.R. 4510 would balance the scales and bring health equity to many Americans currently underserved in oral health care. We look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jennifer Fisher at (202) 789-5160 or fisherj@ada.org.

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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