American Dental Association <ada@messaging.ada.org>

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 7:04 PM **Subject:** Update on Legislative Issues

Issues Alert

From:





Update on Legislative Issues

Hello, Fellow Dentists:

As the global situation on COVID-19 continues to evolve, the American Dental Association is committed to guiding the dental community through these challenging times. We are looking out for you, particularly as federal lawmakers work on legislation that could make a big difference for our profession.

The Senate continues to work on the 3rd coronavirus legislative package, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act. The bill contains a number of provisions of importance to dentists and their dental practices. Despite much back and forth, the ADA is confident that Congress will complete the package shortly. We will send out details on the final provisions once they are available.

You should know that our grassroots efforts over the last 48 hours regarding the CARES Act have been outstanding—117,462 dentists have sent 358,535 emails to Capitol Hill. There is no doubt that dentistry's message has been received!

By way of update, as you know the 2nd coronavirus legislative package, H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, was signed into law on March 18. It included some provisions

that could affect your dental practice—primarily those concerning emergency paid sick leave and family medical leave.

The Department of Labor (DOL) has released summary overviews of what the law will require of employers (and employees) for emergency paid sick leave and the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Please keep in mind that we anticipate further guidance from the Department of Labor to clarify these provisions. Once we receive the additional guidance, we will send an update that may assist you with your business decisions. The summary outlines can be found here:

- Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employer Paid Leave Requirements
- Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employee Paid Leave Rights
- COVID-19 and the Fair Labor Standards Act: Questions and Answers
- COVID-19 and the Family and Medical Leave Act: Questions and Answers

As you read the DOL guidance (above), please keep in mind that the ADA is still awaiting a response from the Department of Labor on our request that dental offices as small businesses (50 or fewer employees) be exempt from the emergency sick leave and FMLA, which would alter the requirements and impact of these provisions.

We will update you immediately once we receive a response from the Department of Labor to our request. (Read the letter to the Department of Labor here.)

We know that these are uncertain times, and the ADA will continue to be a resource now and in the weeks and months to come. Count on us—we are working hard for you.

Stay well,

Chad P. Gehani, DDS

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President



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