

April 10, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, United States Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader, United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

On behalf of our 163,000 members, the American Dental Association is writing to thank you for your strong support of small businesses across the country during this public health emergency. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act, in part, seeks to help small businesses maintain employees on their payroll as well as provide for disaster relief through the use of the Paycheck Protection Program and (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL). We believe the PPP and EIDL being administered through the Small Business Administration (SBA) are going to be vital in keeping dentists across the country from closing their practices.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, as of 2018 there are 30.2 million small businesses in the country. The CARES Act has appropriated \$10 billion for EIDL grants and \$350 billion for the PPP. While generous, we believe additional funding will be necessary to stem the closing of dental practices as well as millions of other small businesses, which could result in massive job losses and bankruptcies. In the first few days of loans being open for application the SBA has already distributed \$66 billion in funding.

We strongly support the Congressional efforts underway to increase funding for both the PPP and EIDL grants to the greatest extent possible. Additional funding for these loans will help ease the burdens many dental practices and other small businesses are facing as the pandemic continues without an end in sight. Crucial business decisions will need to be made in the coming weeks and without additional funding we fear a return to normal will not be possible for many. We further urge Congress to help streamline the SBA loan application process as many dentists report having great difficulty in accessing available loans and grants.

We would also like you to consider allowing small business dental practices to choose the 8 week period for which they seek forgiveness for the loans and rehire back staff before December 31, 2020, instead of requiring them to rehire staff by June 30, 2020. This would allow these practices to make decisions about staffing and payroll based on when they plan

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to fully reopen. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration classifies dental health care personnel in the **very high exposure risk** category¹ and the ability to fully reopen dental practices are more contingent on the ability to completely control the coronavirus pandemic in a relatively short period of time.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you in more detail and answer any questions you have regarding these comments. Please contact Megan Mortimer at mortimerm@ada.org to facilitate further discussions.

Sincerely,

Chad P. Gehani, D.D.S.
President

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

CPG:KTO:dnl

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Infection Control – Dental Settings](#), April 2020.