

May 11, 2020

Mr. Joseph B. Edlow
Deputy Director for Policy
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20529

Dear Deputy Director Edlow:

On behalf of the American Dental Association (ADA), we are writing to respectfully request that you consider extending the 60 day grace period for dentists who are H-1B visa holders.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many dental offices are closed or are only seeing emergency patients. They are doing so in order to slow community spread, preserve medical supplies, and relieve emergency departments (EDs) from seeing dental patients.

As a result, dentists are being furloughed or laid off through no fault of their own. Those dentists who are in the United States on H-1B visas are worried that they may lose their status and be forced to go back to their home country. This will prevent them from returning to the important work of improving the oral health of Americans when dental offices reopen.

We ask that you please extend the grace period to 180 days. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

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

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

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