

May 21, 2020

The Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

On behalf of our collective dental organizations, we are writing to extend our personal thanks to you and your staff for spearheading an effort urging Congressional leaders to include in the next COVID-19 legislation strong measures to ensure continued access to dental care.

As you know, the dental community was one of the first to recommend a postponement of all elective procedures at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. As a result, dentists only saw patients for emergencies to slow community spread, preserve medical supplies, and alleviate emergency departments as much as possible from anything not related to COVID-19. As the pandemic continues, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has classified dental health care personnel in the very high exposure risk category¹ and the ability to fully reopen dental practices is more contingent on the ability of a dentist to use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and future use of rapid testing kits.

As dentists across the country continue to navigate the unique challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic, a specific and temporary increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) would be most welcome if used to support state Medicaid programs with adult and child dental services. Further, we believe your proposed \$75 million public health oral infrastructure fund could be used to support efforts by dentists to acquire personal protective equipment (PPE) as well as rapid testing kits. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to ensure dental practices can move our economy forward and provide essential oral health care to their patients.

Thank you again for your commitment to oral health. Your office has been great to work with on this issue and we welcome the opportunity to speak with you in more detail and answer any questions you may have on this or any other related issues. Please contact Chris Tampio at tampioc@ada.org to facilitate further discussions.

Sincerely,

American Dental Association
Maryland State Dental Association

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

Academy of General Dentistry
American Academy of Dental Group Practice
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Periodontology
American Association of Endodontists
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American College of Prosthodontists
American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists
American Student Dental Association

Alabama Dental Association
Alaska Dental Society
Colorado Dental Association
Connecticut State Dental Association
District of Columbia Dental Society
Florida Dental Association
Georgia Dental Association
Hawaii Dental Association
Idaho Dental Association
Illinois State Dental Society
Indiana Dental Association
Iowa Dental Association
Kansas Dental Association
Kentucky Dental Association
Louisiana Dental Association
Maine Dental Association
Massachusetts Dental Society
Minnesota Dental Association
Mississippi Dental Association
Missouri Dental Association
Montana Dental Association
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