



July 31, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leaders McConnell and Hoyer, and Minority Leaders Schumer and McCarthy:

The American Association for Dental Research (AADR), American Dental Association (ADA), and the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) thank you and your colleagues for your tireless efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you continue negotiations on a final COVID-19 relief package, we urge you to ensure that the legislation reflects the reality of COVID-19 and its needs. Specifically, we ask you to include designated funding for the National Institute of Health's (NIH) National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) in the final package—a funding provision that was lacking in both the House-passed Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HEROES) Act and the Senate's proposed Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection, and Schools (HEALS) Act.

While we are grateful that these proposals include vital funding for the NIH Office of the Director for critical recovery and research investments, NIDCR has been excluded from

the list of NIH Institutes and Centers for which specific funding allocations have been made. Yet, NIDCR has a critical role to play in COVID-19-related research. Specifically, NIDCR can help us answer questions about ensuring the safety of dental practitioners and patients in dental treatment environments and about how to prevent COVID-19 transmission, improve its detection and diagnosis, and understand its pathogenesis—all of which are critical for combatting this disease.

We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting many individuals and institutions across the country and that Congress is providing unprecedented resources to help. However, we cannot afford for final legislation to overlook research entities that can contribute to our understanding of and our response to COVID-19.

Again, AADR, ADA, and ADEA thank you for your myriad efforts and encourage you to include designated funding for NIDCR as part of the next COVID-19 response package.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact AADR Assistant Director of Government Affairs Lindsey Horan at lhoran@aadr.org or 703.299.8098; ADA Congressional Lobbyist Jennifer Fisher at fisherj@ada.org or 202.789.5160; or ADEA Chief Advocacy Officer Tim Leeth at leetht@adea.org or 202.236.5354.

Sincerely,



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