

March 12, 2020

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters  
Ranking Member  
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Peters:

On behalf of the 163,000 members of the American Dental Association (ADA), we would like to thank the committee for conducting hearings on confronting COVID-19. We appreciate that the Committee has explored issues related to stakeholders involved in mitigating this public health issue, including discussions related to the effect on health care providers and their patients.

As one of the largest health care professional associations, we, too, are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation. The ADA is actively engaged in educating our dentist members and the public on the role that dentists can play in protecting their patients, themselves, and their staff from exposure.

As the Committee and Congress move forward with legislation that will support health care providers and their patients during this crisis, we would like to ensure that oral health care providers and their patients are included in those proposals. We ask the Committee to ensure that dentists, who are primary care doctors specializing in oral health, and their patients are not inadvertently excluded from legislative proposals as they move forward. We especially ask Congress to remember the need for dentists to have access to personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies, such as facemasks, in order to protect their patients, their staff, and themselves from infection. We encourage Congress to consider proposals to incentivize production of these supplies and discourage individuals from buying them for their personal use when not medically necessary.

The ADA would also like to offer itself as a resource to the Committee on how the coronavirus is specifically affecting the dental profession and our patients. The ADA has convened an internal task force to address our members' concerns and those of their patients and provide them with up to date guidance about COVID-19. Please visit

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[ADA.org/virus](https://ada.org/virus) or contact Chris Tampio at [tampioc@ada.org](mailto:tampioc@ada.org) and 202-789-5178 if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,



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



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

CPG:KTO:cmt