March 4, 2021

The Honorable Kathy Castor
U.S. House of Representatives
2052 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Castor:

On behalf of our 162,000 members, the American Dental Association (ADA) would like to thank you for introducing H.R. 1550, the PREVENT HPV Cancers Act. The ADA strongly supports the administration of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine as a safe and effective way to reduce the risk for oral HPV infections and the cancers they can cause.

As you know, there is a link between HPV and oral health, as HPV can affect the mouth and throat, causing certain head and neck cancers. HPV is now associated with 9,000 cases of head and neck cancers each year in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For that reason, we support increasing awareness of this disease and efforts for immunization against it, as well as expanding the research on HPV-associated cancers within the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute.

The ADA hopes your legislation would provide the national public awareness needed to help Americans safeguard their oral health against diseases of the mouth, throat and tonsils. We would appreciate the opportunity to work with your office to help educate the public about the benefits of the HPV vaccine.

The ADA strongly supports improving the oral health care of all Americans. We thank you for introducing legislation that seeks to do that. Please contact Natalie Hales at halesn@ada.org or 202.898.2404 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Klemmedson, D.D.S., M.D.
President

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

cc: Florida Dental Association

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