

April 15, 2021

The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

On behalf of our 162,000 members, the American Dental Association (ADA) would like to congratulate you on your recent confirmation as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). Leveraging your leadership in California and on the national stage, the Biden administration is well-positioned to tackle the most serious issues in health care today, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

We look forward to working with you on the following areas under your purview:

- Continued access to the Provider Relief Fund (PRF) for dentists should future application periods be opened. We also ask that there be a dispute/appeals process for errors made on previous applications;
- Opening of the Affordable Care Act's special enrollment period where stand-alone dental plans are also allowed to be selected as a way to expand dental coverage as part of overall essential health care;
- Ensuring a permanent chief dental officer at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) represents the interests of oral health;
- Improving the Medicaid program, including expanding the participation of dentists through increased reimbursement and reduced administrative burden such as the easing of credentialing and audit processes. We also ask that HHS act to enhance adult dental benefits across all Medicaid programs;
- Activities to increase oral health equity, including incentivizing dentists to practice in underserved communities across the United States and strengthening support for Action for Dental Health Initiatives within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we can meet these challenges together. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. David Linn at 202-789-5170 or [linnd@ada.org](mailto:linnd@ada.org).

Sincerely,

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

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

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