

June 25, 2015

Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman, House Committee on  
Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member, House Committee on  
Energy and Commerce  
2322A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of our 158,000 members, we are pleased to register our support for H.R. 1411, the Expanding Nutrition's Role in Curricula and Healthcare (ENRICH) Act. This bill would authorize grants to help health professional schools better integrate nutrition education into their training curriculum.

Eating patterns and food choices play an important role in maintaining good oral health. From a dental perspective, a steady diet of sugary foods and beverages, including all-natural fruit juices and artificially sweetened sports drinks, can damage teeth. A lack of certain nutrients can also make it difficult for tissues in the mouth to resist infection.

If enacted, H.R. 1411 would incentivize medical schools to partner with other health professional schools, including dental schools, to create (or expand existing) nutrition-education curricula. These interprofessional programs could help dental students learn more about the relationship between diet, nutrition, and oral health—and how to effectively counsel their patients about the oral health benefits of maintaining a healthy diet.

**We urge the committee to report H.R. 1411 favorably so it may be considered for a vote by the full House of Representatives.**

We applaud Rep. Tim Ryan for introducing this important legislation and are pleased to offer our enthusiastic support. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jennifer Fisher at 202-789-5160 or [fisherj@ada.org](mailto:fisherj@ada.org).

Sincerely,

/s/

Maxine Feinberg, D.D.S.  
President

MF:KTO:rjb

/s/

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