October 21, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of our 158,000 members, we are pleased to be partnering with the White House, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other executive branch agencies to help curb the rates of addiction, overdoses, and deaths associated with prescription opioid abuse.

Opioid pain medications, such as hydrocodone and oxycodone, have become a leading source of drug abuse among teens and young adults. As prescribers of these painkilling medications, dentists have a role to play in preventing their diversion, misuse, and abuse. With that in mind, we are pleased to offer the following commitments to advance our mutual goals.

- **Prescriber education and training.** We pledge to seek an increase to the number of dentists completing our continuing education webinars on responsible opioid prescribing. The free training—available to members and non-members alike—covers the latest techniques for recognizing when a patient may be seeking opioids for non-medical purposes, and how to briefly counsel and refer those patients for appropriate substance abuse treatment.

- **Prescription drug monitoring.** We pledge to continue encouraging dentists to register with their state prescription drug monitoring program (if available). Dentists can leverage these programs to quickly assess whether a patient may be "doctor shopping."

- **Professional awareness.** We pledge to continue using our various member outreach tools to raise awareness about the problems associated with opioid abuse, and share actions dentists can take to help.

We welcome this opportunity to work with you to help prevent the abuse, misuse, and diversion of prescription opioid medications. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Robert J. Burns at 202-789-5176 or burnsr@ada.org. Information is also available at ADA.org/rxabuse.

Sincerely,

/s/

Maxine Feinberg, D.D.S.  
President

/s/

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

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