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Dear Colleague,

All Americans deserve good dental health. Regular dentist visits can do more than keep your smile attractive – they can tell dentists a lot about your overall health, including whether or not you may be developing a disease like diabetes or if you're at risk for a stroke. The health of your mouth often mirrors the condition of your body as a whole. When your mouth is healthy, chances are your overall health is good. Conversely, if you have poor oral health, you may have other health issues that need to be addressed.

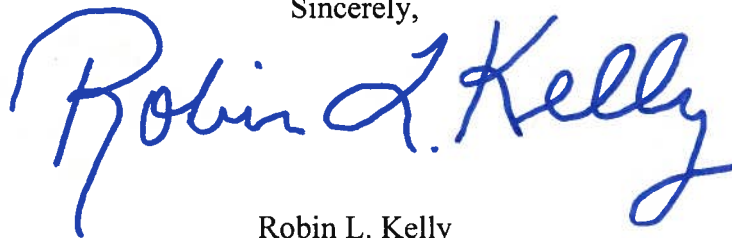
More than 47 million people in the U.S. live in places with limited access to dental care, according to the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration. And, low-income adults are almost twice as likely as those with higher incomes to have had no dental care in the previous year.

Poor dental health can also be an obstacle to employment as many Americans with dental issues find it challenging to land jobs that require them to interact socially with the public, often because they lack the basic ability to smile readily, communicate confidently or chew properly.

I recently introduced **H.R. 4395, the Action for Dental Health Act of 2014**, which seeks to improve oral health care for lower-income Americans by breaking down barriers to care. My bill will make grants available to support volunteer dental projects in communities and improve oral health education and dental disease prevention through community-wide prevention programs and literacy campaigns.

The time is now to strengthen oral health care to improve overall health for millions of Americans. I hope that you'll join me in cosponsoring **H.R. 4395 the Action for Dental Health Act**. If you have any questions or would like to lend your support to this bill, please contact my Legislative Director Brandon Webb at Brandon.Webb@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-0773.

Sincerely,



Robin L. Kelly

Member of Congress