

July 16, 2021

The Honorable Diana DeGette
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives DeGette and Upton:

On behalf of the 162,000 members of the American Dental Association (ADA), we are writing to thank you for your work on the Cures 2.0 Act.

We are especially supportive of the following sections of your draft legislation:

- Sec. 102, National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Pandemics: The ADA believes that it is critically important to develop a strategy to prepare for the next pandemic. Such a strategy should include ways to ensure that the problems that occurred during the COVID-19 response do not happen again, including lack of access to testing and personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Sec. 104, Vaccine and Immunization Programs: The ADA has worked to help dentists educate their patients about the need for vaccination against COVID-19. A public awareness campaign on vaccination would assist with this effort.
- Sec. 201, Educational Programs and Training for Caregivers: The ADA thinks that it is important to train caregivers on providing good oral health care to their aging, seriously ill, or disabled family member or friend. This training should be done through Community Dental Health Coordinators (CDHCs), which are Community Health Workers that focus on oral health education and disease prevention.
- Sec. 202, Increasing Health Literacy to Promote Better Outcomes for Patients: The ADA strongly believes in the importance of oral health literacy. Identifying culturally competent, evidence-based interventions is critical to improving oral health. CDHCs should also be involved in this work. Because many of them come from the same or similar communities in which they serve, they are uniquely positioned to help educate underserved populations on oral health literacy.
- Sec. 502, Research Investment to Spark the Economy: The ADA is a science-driven organization that agrees that scientific research and innovation are key to growing the economy. The funding provided in this section to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will continue research that was disrupted by COVID-19, including oral health research at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR).

Thank you again for your efforts on the Cures 2.0 Act. The ADA looks forward to continuing to work with you to advance this legislation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Natalie Hales at halesn@ada.org.

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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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