

December 10, 2007

The Honorable  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

The undersigned dental organizations request that you cosponsor H.R. 3109, the Dental Health Promotion Act of 2007. This bill would allow consumers the ability to purchase certain over-the-counter dental products using their Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs).

Under current law, FSAs can be used to pay for doctor visits and co-pays for prescriptions. In addition, they can be used to purchase various over-the-counter medical products. Unfortunately, they can not be used to purchase over-the-counter dental products that consumers must use every day to help ensure good oral health -- even though there is a link between oral health and overall health.

Passage of H.R. 3109 will improve access to dental care and reduce oral health care costs. As more and more consumers utilize FSA accounts, this undoubtedly will improve access to dental care products that prevent and treat the onset of tooth decay (caries) and periodontal diseases, as well as other conditions which affect the teeth, gums, and mouth. It also would make the purchase of over-the-counter dental products more economically feasible by allowing consumers to use pre-tax dollars, which will ultimately reduce the cost of their oral health care purchases.

Finally, we believe any costs associated with the bill would be negligible, since the bill does not seek to expand the fundamental FSA provisions. It simply gives consumers with FSAs an alternative way to spend the pre-tax dollars they set aside prior to the tax year.

We hope that you will cosponsor H.R. 3109 to help prevent oral disease and reduce oral health care costs.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
American Academy of Periodontology  
American Association of Endodontists  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
American Association of Orthodontists  
American College of Prosthodontists  
American Dental Association  
Hispanic Dental Association  
National Dental Association