



**American Association of Oral  
and Maxillofacial Surgeons**

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**W. Mark Tucker, DDS**  
**President**

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**Executive Director**

August 13, 2007

The Honorable Tom Price  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Comprehensive HealthCARE Act

Dear Congressman Price:

On behalf of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), I applaud your leadership in introducing the Comprehensive HealthCARE (Coverage and Reform Enhancement) Act. AAOMS strongly supports this legislation to address current shortcomings in the nation's health care system that prohibits access to quality and affordable health care for many Americans.

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons commend your proposal to utilize the tax system to promote and increase the availability of affordable healthcare coverage to the millions of Americans in desperate need of insurance. The association also shares your belief that the current environment for the practice of healthcare (i.e. reduced reimbursement coupled with increased liability and practice expenses) could soon result in a significant shortage of qualified physicians.

Although AAOMS strongly supports the spirit and the intent of the Comprehensive Healthcare Act, the association has been working on Capitol Hill to address what we believe is a very obvious oversight and lapse by insurance companies relating to pediatric care. Specifically, the OMS community is concerned that the insurance industry view pediatric surgical interventions for cleft palate and lip as "elective" surgery. Such surgery is frequently necessary to restore basic oral and craniofacial function for children, yet many insurance companies do not cover this important pediatric procedure. As such, we would encourage you and others in Congress to support legislation and provisions to ensure that our nation's children have access to this basic coverage (H.R. 1655).

The oral and maxillofacial surgical community thanks you for your leadership on this important issue and looks forward to assisting you in moving this very necessary legislation forward.

Sincerely,

W. Mark Tucker, D.D.S.  
President