

April 2, 2024

The Honorable Jason Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard E. Neal  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith, Chairwoman McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Members Neal and Pallone:

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Organized Dentistry Coalition and other oral health advocacy organizations, we are writing to express our support for H.R. 7814, led by Representatives Jeff Van Drew and Yvette Clarke. This bill would work to grow the dental workforce and address patient access by supporting the growth of dental faculty to train more dentists and dental hygienists. The legislation would allow full-time faculty members participating in the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program (DFLRP) to exclude from income the amount of their loan forgiveness from their federal income taxes. We urge you to support this bill.

The Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program was created to help accredited academic dental institutions recruit and retain qualified and diverse faculty in dental schools, residencies, and advanced education programs in general, pediatric, and public health dentistry. In order to build the dentist workforce, we must ensure there is a pipeline of faculty to support new dentists and hygienists. Recruiting and retaining dental faculty is a significant challenge, given the staggering level of student loan debt and income disparity so many dentists face.

Thank you in advance for your leadership in cultivating the next generation of dental faculty to train general, pediatric and public health dentists and hygienists. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. C. Scott Litch at the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (312-337-2169, [slitch@aapd.org](mailto:slitch@aapd.org)), Ms. Megan Mortimer at the American Dental Association (202-898-2402, [mortimerm@ada.org](mailto:mortimerm@ada.org)), or Mr. Tim Leeth at the American Dental Education Association, (202-289-8172, [leeth@adea.org](mailto:leeth@adea.org)).

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
Academy of General Dentistry  
Alabama Arise  
American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology  
American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology  
American Academy of Periodontology  
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research  
American Association of Endodontists  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

April 2, 2024

Page 2

American Association of Orthodontists  
American Association of Public Health Dentistry  
American College of Prosthodontics  
American Institute of Dental Public Health  
American Network of Oral Health Coalitions  
American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists  
American Student Dental Association  
Association of Dental Support Organizations  
Hispanic Dental Association  
Indiana Oral Health Coalition  
Minnesota Oral Health Coalition  
National Dental Association  
North Carolina Oral Health Collaborative / Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation  
New Jersey Oral Health Coalition  
Oral Health Iowa  
Oral Health Kansas  
Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health  
Society of American Indian Dentists  
Virginia Health Catalyst  
West Virginia Oral Health Coalition