



May 27, 2020

The Honorable Martha McSally
United States Senate
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Main Street Enhancement and Safety Act

Dear Senator McSally:

On behalf of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), the professional organization that represents more than 9,000 oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) in the United States, I would like to thank you for introducing the Main Street Enhancement and Safety Act (S 3716), which would provide loan forgiveness under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for costs related to health and safety supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE). We greatly appreciate you being a leader in recognizing the impact these additional and significant costs – as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic – will have on small businesses as they prepare to reopen.

OMSs are the surgical specialists of dentistry who have played a crucial role during the COVID-19 pandemic in treating patients with dental emergencies in private facilities, keeping them away from hospital emergency rooms. OMSs across the country are beginning to reopen their practices after closing completely or limiting their practice to emergency-only dental care during the pandemic. To protect patients, their staff and themselves from the spread of COVID-19, OMSs are implementing enhanced infection control safeguards as called for in the updated Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response.¹ Furthermore, many OMS procedures generate aerosols – which can increase the risk of virus transmission – making additional infection control measures and PPE essential. The cost of these health and safety efforts will have a considerable economic impact on their businesses.

PPP loans have been a critical lifeline for many OMS practices during this time of financial uncertainty and have afforded OMSs the ability to retain or rehire their personnel before their practices are operating at full capacity. At the same time, OMSs need to provide for their employees' health and safety. By providing flexibility in how PPP loan proceeds are utilized, your legislation will help OMSs mitigate the increased cost of PPE that will be required to safely return to providing care to patients while also protecting themselves and employees.

¹ [CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response](#), May 19, 2020

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue facing OMS practices. If we can help your efforts, please contact Jeanne Tuerk, manager of government affairs, at 800-822-6637, ext. 4321, or jtuerk@aaoms.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor L. Nannini DDS FACS". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Victor L. Nannini, DDS, FACS
AAOMS President