

# Student Loan Repayment Reform



## Support the Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act.

### A few statistics about OMS student debt

Oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMS) residents must complete at minimum a four-year, hospital-based residency in addition to their undergraduate and dental degrees. Nearly 40 percent also earn a medical degree or complete a fellowship training program.

#### An OMS in a four-year residency program:

Averages

**\$350,000**

in unsubsidized student loans after completing dental school

Will pay more than

**\$90,000**

in **additional interest** over those four years with an average graduate loan interest rate of 6 percent

These totals increase by

**40%**

for OMSs enrolled in programs that allow them to obtain both a dental degree and a medical degree



Physicians and dentists accumulate significant student debt and undertake several years of residency with very low pay – making it difficult to begin repaying their student debt right away.



The elimination of subsidized graduate loans and higher student loan interest rates have resulted in a significant increase in student loan debt for OMSs, making it challenging for them to consider serving in underserved areas or in faculty or research positions. A 2017 survey of OMS residents, for example, found that **more than half of the respondents said high student loan debt levels would impact the type of practice into which they planned to go.**



Medical and dental residents accrue interest on their graduate loans while they are in school and residency – even if they qualify for deferment or forbearance due to their inability to make payments on the principal.

### AAOMS's ask of Congress



**Co-sponsor the  
REDI Act  
(S 704/HR 1202)**

- The Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act was reintroduced in the 118th Congress by Sens. Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.) and John Boozman (R-Ark.) and Reps. Brian Babin (R-Texas) and Chrissy Houlahan (D-Pa.).
- The bill would allow borrowers to qualify for interest-free deferment on their student loans while serving in a medical or dental internship or residency program.
- **The REDI Act does not provide any loan forgiveness or reduce a borrower's original loan balance. Providing student loan relief also is a workforce issue.** In the case of the REDI Act, the ability for medical and dental residents to save thousands of dollars in interest on their loans makes the options of serving in **underserved areas** or in **faculty and research** positions more attractive and affordable to residents.
- To learn more or co-sponsor, contact the office of Sen. Rosen, Sen. Boozman, Rep. Babin or Rep. Houlahan.