

March 19, 2019

The Honorable Brian Babin, DDS  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2236 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Posey  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2150 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Gosar, DDS  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2057 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Stivers  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2234 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andy Harris, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2334 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Babin, Gosar, Harris, Posey and Stivers:

On behalf of our organizations, we thank you for introducing the “Resident Education Deferred Interest Act” (HR 1554) that, if passed, will allow borrowers to qualify for interest-free deferment on their student loans while serving in a medical or dental internship or residency program.

As a dentist, you are likely aware the cost of graduate-level medical and dental education is substantial for the vast majority of students. Further, those who undertake several years of residency with very low pay are often unable to begin repaying student debt immediately. As a result, they qualify to have their payments halted during residency through deferment or forbearance processes, but they continue to accrue interest that is added to their balance.

Passage of the “Resident Education Deferred Interest Act” is an important part of student loan repayment reform. This bill would save physicians and dentists in residency thousands of dollars in interest. Providing interest accrual relief during residency also would make the concepts of opening practices in underserved areas or entering faculty or research more attractive and affordable to residents.

Thank you again for your support of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Emergency Medicine Resident and Student Association  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
American Academy of Periodontology  
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Association of Endodontists  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
American Association of Orthodontists  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Association of Women Dentists  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Rheumatology  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Medical Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Student Dental Association  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
The American Society of Breast Surgeons  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons