

Student Loan Repayment Reform



Support the Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act

A few statistics about OMS student debt

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) must complete a four-year, hospital-based residency *after* their undergraduate and dental degrees. Nearly 40 percent also complete an *additional* two years for a medical degree or fellowship training program.

A recent survey of OMSs who completed residency within the last five years found the following:

75%

had student loan debt more than
\$300,000
upon residency completion

67%

had *monthly payments* more than
\$2,000
upon residency completion

72%

said their debt impacted
**where or how they
practiced***

* Debt dissuaded OMSs from academia and underserved areas,
in favor of corporate practice and lucrative geographic locations.

Background on the issue



The elimination of subsidized graduate loans and higher student loan interest rates have resulted in a **significant increase in student loan debt**.



Medical and dental residents accrue interest **even if they qualify for deferment or forbearance**. OMSs in four-year residency programs can accrue more than **\$90,000 in additional interest** during residency.



Most residents **cannot afford to pay on their student loans while still in residency**.



Debt accrued during residency is a **workforce issue**. It limits practice decisions upon graduation, including whether to specialize, particularly in dentistry. Notably, there has been a decrease in the number of dental students applying to OMS residency programs since 2021, particularly to 6-year dual degree OMS programs.



Interest-free deferment during residency **was permitted by federal law until 2011**.

AAOMS's ask of Congress



**Co-sponsor the
REDI Act
(S 942/HR 2028)**

- The **Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act** was reintroduced in the 119th 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 **restore** borrowers' ability to qualify for interest-free deferment on their federal student loans while serving in a medical or dental internship or residency program.
- **The REDI Act is a workforce and access to care issue**. Saving thousands of dollars in interest would enable service in underserved areas or in faculty and research.
- **The REDI Act does not provide any loan forgiveness**.
- To learn more or co-sponsor, contact the office of Sen. Rosen, Sen. Boozman, Rep. Babin or Rep. Houlahan.