

# 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 2024 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 bipartisan, bicameral 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.
- A provision modeled after the REDI Act was included in the House-passed version of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act but was not included in the final version.
- The REDI Act **does not provide any loan forgiveness**. 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.
- To learn more or co-sponsor, contact the office of Sen. Rosen, Sen. Boozman, Rep. Babin or Rep. Houlahan.