

March 12, 2026

The Honorable Jefferson Van Drew  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2447 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Herb Conaway  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1022 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Van Drew and Representative Conaway:

On behalf of the undersigned dental organizations, we thank you for introducing the Improving Dental Administration Act of 2026. We greatly appreciate your leadership in addressing longstanding inequities in the administration of dental benefits that negatively affect patients and dentists across the country.

The Improving Dental Administration Act is an important and timely response to the growing disconnect between state insurance protections and the realities of today's dental coverage market. As you recognize, nearly half of dental plan enrollees in the country receive coverage through self-funded plans regulated under ERISA, leaving many patients and dentists without many of the protections afforded by state dental insurance laws designed to promote fairness, transparency, and accountability. By requiring that state insurance laws applying to fully insured dental plans also apply to self-funded dental coverage and their administrators, your legislation would help ensure that these benefit protections apply consistently, regardless of how a dental plan is financed.

State laws governing issues such as noncovered services, network leasing, prior authorization, prompt payment, and retroactive denials exist to protect the doctor-patient relationship and to curb anti-competitive practices. Allowing these laws to apply uniformly to both fully insured and self-funded dental plans would help close the ERISA loophole that has created a bifurcated system where some patients and providers are protected by state law, while many others are not.

Thank you again for your commitment to advancing policies that support patients, providers, and a more equitable dental benefits system. We look forward to working with you to advance the Improving Dental Administration Act in the 119th Congress. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Natalie Hales at [halesn@ada.org](mailto:halesn@ada.org).

Sincerely,

American Dental Association  
Academy of General Dentistry  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology  
American Academy of Orofacial Pain  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

American Academy of Periodontology  
American Association of Endodontists  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
American Association of Orthodontists  
American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists  
American Student Dental Association  
Association of Dental Support Organizations