

Congress of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20515

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you work to develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, we ask for your continued support for programs crucial to addressing the unmet oral health needs of America's children. Specifically, we urge continued funding for Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII pediatric dentistry training at no less than \$14 million, including support for dental faculty loan repayment grants, and robust funding for Section 748 primary care dental programs as a whole.

Pediatric dentists are crucial to meeting the unmet oral health needs of children, many of whom come from underserved populations. Dental decay is easily preventable, and yet remains a persistent chronic disease among many American children. Left untreated, decay can cause pain and infection that undermines eating, speaking, and learning during critical stages of childhood development. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that tooth decay affects 1 in 4 children under age five, half of children ages 6-11, and nearly 60 percent of adolescents ages 12-19 untreated decay is more than twice as likely for children in low-income families, compared to those in higher-income households.

HRSA Title VII programs are an important tool in meeting the unmet oral health needs of many of these families. Continued funding for pediatric dentistry training programs helps more dental students enter the field prepared to address these needs by treating children covered by Medicaid and CHIP and practicing in underserved areas. Additionally, dental faculty repayment programs incentivize professionals to help train future practitioners to meet such needs.

We thank the Subcommittee for its support of these programs in past years, and urge continued funding in order to further stem the tide of preventable childhood dental disease.

Sincerely,



JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress

HRSA Title VII Pediatric Dentistry Training, FY 2022

List of Signatories

April 28, 2021

Colin Allred
Cindy Axne
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Joyce Beatty
Cheri Bustos
G. K. Butterfield
Salud Carbajal
Tony Cárdenas
André Carson
Sean Casten
David N. Cicilline
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Joe Courtney
Angie Craig
Jason Crow
Danny K. Davis
Antonio Delgado
Mark DeSaulnier
Anna G. Eshoo
Dwight Evans
Bill Foster
Vincente Gonzalez
Al Green
Michael Guest
Jim Himes
Steven Horsford
Sheila Jackson Lee
Pramila Jayapal
Ro Khanna

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Conor Lamb
John B. Larson
Mike Levin
Ted W. Lieu
Alan Lowenthal
Lucy McBath
Gwen Moore
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Jimmy Panetta
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Chellie Pingree
Stacey E. Plaskett
Katie Porter
Jamie Raskin
Bobby L. Rush
Mary Gay Scanlon
Jan Schakowsky
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Brad Sherman
Albio Sires
Abigail D. Spanberger
Jackie Speier
Marilyn Strickland
Dina Titus
Frederica S. Wilson
Don Young