August 22, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  20515

RE: Conference Labor-HHS-Education-Appropriations

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the American Dental Association, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American Dental Education Association, and the American Association for Dental Research, we respectfully request that as you and your colleagues prepare to negotiate the final appropriations legislation for (FY) 2019 that you fund the oral health programs at the highest amount possible.

Dental access, prevention, care and research initiatives are leading to improved oral health across the country. The modest programmatic increases we are requesting will allow more Americans to have access to improved oral health care.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) Division of Oral Health is a much needed (and highly valued) source of support for state health departments to help reduce oral health disparities through evidence-based community preventive interventions and access to clinical preventive services. Their investments in programs like community water fluoridation, school-based sealants, and oral health literacy have help to significantly reduce the incidence of oral disease among children and adults.

Title VII general and pediatric dental residency programs within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), provide primary oral health care services in some of the nation’s most remote and underserved locations. The Administration claims that these programs have not demonstrated a significant impact on the effectiveness of the oral health workforce. However, the FY 17 HRSA budget justification indicates that in 2015-2016, oral health training programs helped train 3,835 dental and dental hygiene students in pre-doctoral training, 435 primary care dental residents and fellows, and 946 dental faculty members in faculty development. Recent grants for faculty loan repayment are critical in recruiting and retaining the dental faculty needed to train future generations of dentists.

As an independent agency within NIH, the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) is the largest institution in the world dedicated exclusively to research to improve dental, oral and craniofacial health. Investments in NIDCR-funded research during the past half-century have led to improvements in oral health for millions of Americans through areas such as community water fluoridation; the use of dental sealants to reduce cavities in children; and emerging opportunities to assess the efficacy of a human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine for oral and pharyngeal cancers.
For your consideration, below is a table delineating the House and Senate Appropriations Committee marks with our requests highlighted. We understand the difficult task you face as you finalize the FY 2019 Labor-HHS-Education-Appropriations bill in the current environment of tight budget constraints, and we greatly appreciate your consideration of our requests.

We look forward to meeting with your staff to discuss these important programs. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Fisher with ADA at fisherj@ada.org; Scott Litch with AAPD at slitch@aapd.org; Timothy Leeth with ADEA at leetht@dea.org; or Lindsey Horan with AADR at lhoran@iadr.org.

Sincerely,

American Dental Association
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Dental Education Association
American Association for Dental Research

Enclosure
# FY 2019 Funding Requests for Federal Oral Health Programs

Supported by the American Dental Association, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, American Dental Education Association and the American Association for Dental Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 17 dental groups request</th>
<th>FY 17 Omnibus</th>
<th>FY 19 House LHHS Report</th>
<th>FY 19 Senate LHHS Report</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CDC – Division of Oral Health</td>
<td>$19,000,000</td>
<td>$18,000,000</td>
<td>$22,000,000</td>
<td>$19,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>HRSA Title VII General and Pediatric dental residencies Dental faculty loan repayment</td>
<td>$10 M each</td>
<td>$10 M each</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$35,873,000</strong></td>
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<td>HRSA - AHECs</td>
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<td>NIH - NIDCR</td>
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<td>$453,082,000</td>
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