

AADOCR Capitol Hill Day 2024 – Legislative Asks

The American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR) urges Congress to pass a fiscal year (FY) 2025 budget that recognizes the need for investment in vital scientific and medical research, and to support the programs and agencies that are critical to our nation's oral health. The following are our chief asks of Congress:

1. Work in a bipartisan manner to **complete work on FY 2025 spending bills** as quickly as possible to avoid disruptions to the medical research system.
2. Pass an FY 2025 budget that funds oral health and research programs at the highest possible level, including:
 - At least **\$48.81 billion** for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as funded by the Senate Appropriations Committee
 - At least **\$521.7 million** for the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), as proposed in the White House Budget Request
 - At least **\$22.25 million** for CDC's Division of Oral Health, as funded by the House Appropriations Committee
 - At least **\$43.67 million** for HRSA Title VII dental residency programs, as funded by both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees

The research supported by these agencies enhances the knowledge base of health professionals, researchers, and dental faculty members with the goal of improving dental clinical practices, preparing the dental workforce, closing the gap in dental health disparities, and addressing numerous public health challenges.

3. Cosponsor the **Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2024** (S. 4357/H.R. 9622)

This bicameral legislation would make dental care an essential benefit under the Affordable Care Act, expand dental coverage under Medicare, Medicaid and the Veterans Administration, make dental care services available in more community health centers, schools, and nursing homes throughout the country, and increase the number of dental professionals nationwide, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

The American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to drive dental, oral, and craniofacial research to advance health and well-being. AADOCR represents the individual scientists, clinician-scientists, dental professionals, and students based in academic, government, non-profit and private-sector institutions who share our mission. AADOCR is the largest division of the International Association for Dental Research.