

February 5, 2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Marshall
United States Senate
479A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Senators Durbin and Marshall:

On behalf of our 160,000 members, we would like to thank you for introducing S. 3597, the Promoting Dental Health Act. This bill would reauthorize the oral health promotion and disease prevention activities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through 2028.

The CDC Division of Oral Health administers the federal government's most critical dental public health activities to prevent cavities, gum disease, and other painful and serious conditions. Among other things, it provides vital support for state and territorial health departments to monitor oral disease across populations and implement evidence-based oral health interventions.

Over the years, the DOH has helped health departments develop, maintain, and upgrade their community water fluoridation systems and dental sealant programs benefitting low-income children. It has developed infection control guidelines to protect dental patients and funded specialty training for dental public health professionals. It has also supported public education campaigns to encourage good oral hygiene.

Additionally, the DOH supports public health data systems to help countless stakeholders understand what advances or impedes the public's oral health, including risky or protective behaviors, the availability of preventive interventions, and use of preventive services. Lawmakers use this data to measure the nation's progress in advancing the public's oral health and, toward that end, prioritize national resources.

The CDC Division of Oral Health envisions a nation where all people enjoy good oral health that contributes to leading healthy, satisfying lives. Combined with enhanced appropriations, your bill moves us in that direction.

Again, we thank you for sponsoring this important legislation and are pleased to offer our enthusiastic support. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jennifer Fisher at 202-789-5160 or fisherj@ada.org.

Sincerely,

/s/

Linda J. Edgar, D.D.S., M.Ed.
President

LJE:RAC:rjb

/s/

Raymond A. Cohlmia, D.D.S.
Executive Director