

May 14, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Chairman  
House Ways and Means Committee  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ranking Member  
House Ways and Means Committee  
1139 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Neal:

On behalf of our 161,000 dentist members, we are writing to support your efforts to combat the opioid crisis. We believe your legislative proposals include numerous provisions which would complement our ongoing efforts to keep prescription opioid pain medications from becoming a source of harm in our communities.

We would like to thank you for considering dentists in your request for a pain management study by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of H.R. 5776, the Medicare and Opioid Safe Treatment (MOST) Act. As unique providers in the acute pain management field, we believe consultation between HHS and health service providers will be hugely beneficial in strengthening our pain management efforts.

We commend the Committee's response included in this legislation that sufficiently distinguishes pain management in dentistry from pain management in medicine, specifically when it comes to managing acute pain versus chronic pain.

We would also like to request the inclusion of a dental professional organization on the technical expert panel for reducing surgical setting opioid use as found in H.R. 5774, the Combatting Opioid Abuse for Care in Hospitals (COACH) Act. We believe the addition of a dental professional organization on this panel could provide valuable insight regarding acute pain management best practices.

As we shared with you in March, the ADA has released a new policy on opioids supporting mandates on prescription limits and continuing education in what could be the first of its kind among major healthcare professional organizations. The policy states:

- The ADA supports mandatory continuing education in prescribing opioids and other controlled substances.
- The ADA supports statutory limits on opioid dosage and duration of no more than seven days for the treatment of acute pain, consistent with CDC evidence-based guidelines.
- The ADA supports dentists registering with and utilizing PDMPs to promote the appropriate use of opioids and deter misuse and abuse.

These legislative proposals are an important step towards alleviating the tragic scourge of opioid abuse that has been devastating our communities. We applaud the Ways and Means Committee's efforts on combating the opioid crisis, as well as your leadership on this issue.

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If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Natalie Hales at 202-898-2404 or [halesn@ada.org](mailto:halesn@ada.org). Additional information is also available at [ADA.org/opioids](http://ADA.org/opioids).

Sincerely,

/s/

Joseph P. Crowley, D.D.S.  
President

JC:KO:nh

/s/

Kathleen T. O'Loughlin, D.M.D., M.P.H.  
Executive Director