

July 15, 2024

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Casey
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Heinrich and Casey:

On behalf of the 159,000 member dentists of the American Dental Association (ADA), we thank you for introducing S.4031, the Providing Resources and Opportunities for Health Education and Learning (PRO-HEAL) Act.

Your bill authorizes the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Administrator to award grants states and institutions of higher education can use to create or expand health care provider pipeline programs. The bill appropriates \$215 million over five years for these grants. Priority would be given to programs in rural or underserved communities, programs focused on increasing the number of primary care providers, and programs focused on recruiting students from the state where an institution of higher education is located.

Health care provider pipeline programs designed to increase the number of dentists, among other health care providers, would be eligible. The bill also allows the HRSA Administrator to add to the list of health care professionals eligible for the health care provider pipeline grants based on areas of need and shortages across America. At a time when a third of dentists have told the ADA they are actively recruiting dental hygienists and dental assistants, and almost nine in ten dentists say that recruiting for these positions is “extremely challenging,” we believe that these dental professionals should clearly be prioritized for health care provider pipeline grant programs.

Thank you again for your leadership on health care workforce issues. America’s dentists look forward to working with you to address the shortage of dental professionals throughout our country.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Tampio at tampioc@ada.org or at 202-789-5178, or Corey McGee at mcgeec@ada.org, or 202-789-5175.

Sincerely,

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

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

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