

# American Dental Political Action Committee

Legislative & Regulatory Update  
Hispanic Dental Association/National Hispanic  
Medical Association Annual Meeting

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Committee

## McCarran-Ferguson Reform

- Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act would amend the McCarran-Ferguson Act to empower the Federal Trade Commission and Justice Department to enforce the full range of antitrust laws against health insurance companies.
- 116<sup>th</sup> Congress:
  - H.R. 1418 sponsored by Reps. DeFazio (D-OR) and Gosar (R-AZ)
  - S. 350 sponsored by Sens. Daines (R-MT) and Leahy (D-VT)
  - First time the legislation is bicameral and bipartisan.

## **Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA)**

- S. 560 sponsored by Sens. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Joni Ernst (R-IA)
- H.R. 1379 sponsored by Reps. Collin Peterson (D-MN) and Denver Riggleman (R-VA)
- Bills would require all private group and individual health plans to provide medically necessary services resulting from a congenital anomaly or birth defect.
- Includes inpatient/outpatient care, reconstructive services, dental, orthodontic or prosthodontic support.
- Excludes cosmetic surgery.

## Student Loan Programs

- H.R. 1554 -the Resident Education Deferred Interest Act (REDI) sponsored by Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX).
- The bill would allow medical and dental residents to qualify deferment and allow the loans (subsidized and unsubsidized) to accrue interest-free during the time.
- H.R. 2186 - the Student Loan Refinancing Act sponsored by Reps. Mark Pocan (D-WI) and Glenn Grothman (R-WI).
- Bill would allow individuals to refinance federal Direct/Direct PLUS and Direct Consolidation loans during favorable economic conditions.

## Indian Health Service Reform

- ADA supports efforts to mandate a centralized credentialing process for health care providers at IHS facilities.
- The ADA met with the IHS Chief Medical Officer to advocate for a centralized credentialing system.
- ADA advocates for appropriations for IHS oral health programs - \$212 million for FY2020 request.

# ADA Advocacy Successes

## Funding for Federal Dental Programs

- Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations Bill included increases for the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, Title VII Oral Health Training, Area Health Education Center programs that help patients find care outside of the ER, and military dental research.
- Also included report language encouraging HRSA to work on patient referral programs and develop an oral health campaign.
  - Passed Congress and signed into law by the President.

# ADA Advocacy Successes

- Appropriations advocacy secured \$24 million (\$4 million increase) for Fiscal Year 2019 for Title VII Oral Health Training.
- Collaborated with the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry to secure report language in the FY '19 to address faculty loan repayment:

## Dental Faculty Loan Repayment

The Committee recommends \$2,000,000 for the Dental Faculty Loan Repayment program, which is the same as the fiscal year 2018 enacted level and \$2,000,0000 above the fiscal year 2019 budget request. This program seeks to increase the number of dental and dental hygiene faculty in the workforce by assisting dental and dental hygiene training programs to attract and retain dental and dental hygiene faculty through loan repayment. The Committee directs the Health Resources and Services Administration to provide continuation for grants initially awards in fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018.

# ADA Advocacy Successes

## Action for Dental Health

- Will allow groups to qualify for grants offered by the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support activities that improve oral health education and dental disease prevention.
- Groups will also be able to develop and expand outreach programs that establish dental homes for children and adults, including the elderly, blind, and disabled.
  - Passed Congress with bipartisan support.
  - Signed into law by the President on December 11, 2018.



# ADA Advocacy Successes

## Opioids

- The ADA advocated for legislation in 2018 to address the opioid crisis that is consistent with the ADA's policies, with a focus on prescribing and education.
  - Signed into law by the President on October 24, 2018.
- The ADA also discussed opioids with top officials at the Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health, and the White House, as well as the Surgeon General.
- ADA continues to educate on this issue.

## Surgeon General Report

- The Surgeon General Report's on oral health was released in 2000 and is now being updated.
- ADA has been engaged in the issue and leadership met with the Surgeon General in October 2018.
- The updated report is expected to be released in 2020, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Surgeon General's report on Oral Health.