

March 31, 2025

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Guthrie and Smith and Ranking Members Neal and Pallone:

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Organized Dentistry Coalition and other oral health advocacy organizations, we are writing to express our strong support for H.R. 1758, the *Dental Loan Repayment Assistance Act*, bipartisan and bicameral legislation led by Representatives Jeff Van Drew and Yvette Clarke. We urge the Committees to advance the bill and support its passage this year, through budget reconciliation or another timely legislative vehicle.

The legislation would allow full-time dental faculty members participating in the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program (DFLRP) to exclude from income the amount of their loan forgiveness from their federal income taxes, stretching resources. Attracting dentists into faculty positions ensures the next generation of trained dentists can enter the workforce to serve patients in rural and underserved areas. A shortage of dental faculty is crippling to the dentist workforce pipeline.

The Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program was created to help accredited academic dental institutions recruit and retain qualified faculty in dental schools, residencies, and advanced education programs in general, pediatric, and public health dentistry. Recruiting and retaining dental faculty is a significant challenge, given the staggering level of student loan debt and income disparity so many dentists face after school is completed.

Thank you in advance for your support of the bill to aid the next generation of dental faculty to train general, pediatric and public health dentists and hygienists. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. C. Scott Litch at the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (312-337-2169, slitch@aapd.org).

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

American Academy of Periodontology
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research
American Association of Endodontists
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthodontists
American Dental Association
American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists
American Student Dental Association
Hispanic Dental Association
National Dental Association
Society of American Indian Dentists