

## Advocacy Day 2026 Legislative Priorities

The American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR), the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), and the Friends of NIDCR (FNIDCR) urge Congress to prioritize funding for dental, oral, and craniofacial research and essential oral health programs.

### We call on Congress to support the following legislative priorities:

1. Provide adequate funding for the federal programs vital to the nation's oral health in fiscal year 2027 appropriations bills, including:
  - **\$51.3 billion** for the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** and reject policies that create administrative barriers to funding the most meritorious research, including proposals to:
    - ✗ Cap indirect costs (maintain current negotiated F&A rates)
    - ✗ Forward fund all grants upfront (use NIH budget periods/annual installments)
  - **\$570 million** for the **National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)**
  - **\$46 million** for **HRSA Title VII Oral Health Training Programs**
  - **\$22.25 million** for the **CDC Division of Oral Health**

The research and oral health programs supported by these federal agencies enhance the knowledge base of oral health professionals, prepare students for careers in dentistry, reduce oral disease among vulnerable populations, and help improve that nation's oral health.

2. Cosponsor and support the bipartisan ***Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act*** or "ELSA" (**S.1677 / H.R.3277**) to ensure coverage of medically necessary services related to the diagnosis and treatment of congenital anomalies and birth defects that impact the face and mouth.

The **American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR)** is a nonprofit organization with a mission to drive dental, oral, and craniofacial research to advance health and well-being. AADOCR represents the individual scientists, clinician-scientists, dental professionals, and students based in academic, government, non-profit and private-sector institutions who share our mission. AADOCR is the largest division of the International Association for Dental Research.

The **American Dental Education Association (ADEA)** is The Voice of Dental Education. Our members include all 87 U.S. and Canadian dental schools, more than 800 allied and advanced dental education programs, more than 55 corporations and approximately 15,000 individuals. Our activities encompass a wide range of research, advocacy, faculty and leadership development, meetings, news, and publications, including the esteemed Journal of Dental Education®.

The **Friends of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (FNIDCR)** is a broad-based coalition of academic and research institutions, professional associations, and foundations that champion NIDCR, the world's largest institution dedicated exclusively to research to improve dental, oral and craniofacial health. With programmatic activities operated out of AADOCR, FNIDCR helps represent the interests of patients, researchers, educators, clinicians and students and the value they find in NIDCR and its critical research.