



October 3, 2022

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Blunt:

On behalf of the American Dental Association, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American Dental Education Association, and the American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research, we thank you for your unwavering commitment to dentistry and oral health.

As you finalize the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you fund oral health programs not less than the highest amount between the House and Senate proposals and oppose any efforts to reduce or eliminate funding for vital programs critical to the nation’s oral health. The following recommendations are our organizations’ top priorities.

CDC Division of Oral Health – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Oral Health is a much-needed and highly valued source of support for state health departments to help reduce oral health disparities through evidence-based community preventive interventions that also provide access to clinical preventive services. Because of your commitment to the Division, its contributions to CDC’s response to the pandemic have successfully guided the dental community in times of uncertainty. However, as we look ahead to rebuild and expand a strong public health infrastructure, we ask for your continued support in strengthening the Division’s ability to serve more communities. Currently, the Division is equipped to support only 20 states, leaving 30 states and territories without adequate resources to build and expand their oral health infrastructure. The CDC’s investments in state and territorial health agencies have helped to significantly reduce the incidence of oral disease in underserved communities. For example, CDC’s support to expand community water fluoridation have helped reduce tooth decay by 25% in children and adults. Additional funding is needed to reach more states, tribes, and territories with resources to advance critical preventive services, data collection, and health promotion activities to prevent and minimize oral disease. **For fiscal year 2023, we urge you to support no less than the House Appropriations bill amount of \$20,750,000 for the CDC Division of Oral Health to help strengthen the nation’s oral health infrastructure.**

HRSA Title VII Oral Health Training Programs – Our organizations applaud the Senate for including funding for the Title VII primary care dental training cluster. We are pleased that Congress understands the importance of these programs and their impact on medically underserved communities. Adequate funding for General and Pediatric dental residency programs enables dental professionals to enhance their knowledge and skills in the field of dentistry and provide primary oral health care services in some of the nation’s most remote and underserved communities.

- Title VII is the only federal program focused on improving the supply, distribution, and diversity of the dental workforce.
- In Academic Year 2020-2021, grantees of the Training in General, Pediatric, and Public Health Dentistry and Dental Hygiene Program trained 9,562 dental and dental hygiene students in pre-doctoral training degree programs; 736 dental residents and fellows in advanced primary care dental residency and fellowship training programs; and many more dental faculty members in faculty development activities and programs.^[1]
- By providing advanced training opportunities to oral health professionals, these programs play a critical role in preparing the dental workforce to meet the nation’s changing health care needs.

Also, we support the continuation of funding for Section 748 post-doctoral training grants initially awarded in fiscal year 2020, pre-doctoral training grants awarded in fiscal year 2022, and dental faculty loan repayment program (DFLRP) grants initially awarded in fiscal years 2021 and 2022; and, the initiation of a new grant cycle with a preference for pediatric dentistry faculty supervising dental students or residents and providing clinical services in dental clinics located in dental schools, hospitals, and community-based affiliated sites. **For fiscal year 2023, we urge you to support no less than the Senate Appropriations mark topline amount of \$42,673,000, which includes an equitable allocation of \$13 million each for Pediatric and General Dentistry programs.**

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research –Thank you for providing increased funding for the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) in the FY 2023 Labor-HHS Senate mark. NIDCR, one of 27 institutes and centers under the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is the largest institution in the world exclusively dedicated to researching ways to improve dental, oral, and craniofacial health. Investments in NIDCR-funded research during the past half-century have led to improvements in oral health for millions of Americans and continue to show promise in areas encompassing pain biology and management, regenerative medicine, oral cancer, and in assessing the efficacy of a human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine for oral and pharyngeal cancers. NIDCR is also one of the NIH institutes that has prioritized the critical research needed in the fight against COVID-19. To date, despite having not received any additional COVID-19 funding, NIDCR has funded approximately \$3.9 million in high-impact research that established the role of the oral cavity in transmitting the coronavirus through saliva. Robust funding for NIDCR in 2023 will allow these research efforts to continue and promote advancements to improve oral and overall health for all Americans. **For fiscal year 2023, we urge Congress to support no less than the Senate Appropriations mark amount of \$526,769,000 for the advancement of research at the NIDCR.**

^[1] Department of Health and Human Services, *FY 2023 Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committee*. <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/about/budget/budget-justification-fy2023.pdf>.

For your consideration, attached is a full list of our priorities delineating the House and Senate Appropriations Committee marks with comparisons to the FY 2022 enacted funding level.

We understand the difficult task you face as you finalize the FY 2023 Labor-HHS-Education-Appropriations bill in the current environment of tight budget constraints, and we greatly appreciate your consideration of our requests. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Fisher with ADA at fisherj@ada.org; Scott Litch with AAPD at slitch@aapd.org; Timothy Leeth with ADEA at leetht@adea.org; or Yehuda Sugarman with AADOCR at ysugarman@iadr.org.

We value your commitment to the advancement of our nation's oral health.

Sincerely,

American Dental Association
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Dental Education Association
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research

FY 2023 Funding Requests for Federal Oral Health Programs
Supported by the American Dental Association, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, American Dental Education Association and the American Association for Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Research

Program	FY 2022 Final	FY 2023 House Mark	FY 2023 Senate Mark
CDC – Division of Oral Health	\$19.75M	\$20.75M	\$19.75M
HRSA Title VII General and Pediatric Dental Residencies and Dental Faculty Loan Repayment	\$12M each	\$1.5M each	\$1M each
Total:	\$40.67M	\$42.17M	\$42.67M
HRSA – Maternal Child Health – Special Projects of Regional and National Significance	\$5.25M	\$5.25M	N/A
HRSA – Area Health Education Centers	\$45.25M	\$48M	\$47M
HRSA – Health Careers Opportunity Program	\$15.45M	\$18.5M	\$18.5M
HRSA - Ryan White Dental (Part F)	\$13.41M	\$13.83M	\$13.41M
NIH – National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research	\$501.23M	\$526.05M	\$526.77M