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| **Support FY2021 Funding for HRSA Title VII Pediatric Dentistry** |
| Sending Office: Honorable Julia BrownleySent By: Katie.Greenberg@mail.house.gov  |   |   |
|  |  | **Request for Signature(s)** |
| ****FY2021 Letter Supporting HRSA Title VII Pediatric Dentistry******FY2020 Co-signers**: Beatty, Cicilline, Cardenas, Cohen, Danny Davis, Susan Davis, Delgado, DeSaulnier, DeSaulnier, Engel, Espaillat, Finkenauer, Gabbard, Heck, Himes, Jackson Lee, Larson, Lipinski, Mucarsel-Powell, Norton, Ocasio-Cortez, Payne, Peterson, Pingree, Plaskett, Ruppersberger, Rush, Bobby Scott, David Scott, Schneider, Spanberger, Speier, Titus, Van Drew, Welch, Wexton, Wilson **Deadline to sign onto this letter is COB Friday, March 6th.**Dear Colleague, I invite you join me in sending the attached letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, requesting continued support for Health Resources and Services Administration (HSRA) Title VII pediatric dentistry programs that address the unmet oral health needs of America’s children. Dental decay is easily preventable, and yet has become one of the most common chronic conditions among children. Lack of access to affordable pediatric dental care plays a large role in this crisis. By providing modest investments in HSRA pediatric dentistry training programs, we can help ensure that highly-trained pediatric dentists are able to treat patients suffering from dental decay, especially those in underserved communities where early childhood dental disease runs rampant. If you have any questions, or would like to sign on to the letter, please contact Katie Greenberg (katie.greenberg@mail.house.gov). Please see the full text of the letter below. Sincerely, Julia BrownleyMember of Congress March XX, 2019 The Honorable Rosa DeLauro The Honorable Tom ColeChairwoman Ranking MemberHouse Appropriations Subcommittee House Appropriations Subcommitteeon Labor, Health and Human Services, on Labor, Health and Human Services,Education, and Related Agencies Education, and Related AgenciesU.S. House of Representatives U.S. House of RepresentativesWashington, D.C 20515 Washington, D.C. 20515 Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole: As you work to develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, we ask for your continued support for programs crucial to addressing the unmet oral health needs of America’s children. Specifically, we urge continued funding for Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII pediatric dentistry training at no less than $12 million, including support for dental faculty loan repayment grants, and robust funding for Section 748 primary care dental programs as a whole. Pediatric dentists are crucial to meeting the unmet oral health needs of children, many of whom come from underserved populations. Dental decay is easily preventable, and yet remains a persistent chronic disease among many American children. Left untreated, decay can cause pain and infection that undermines eating, speaking, and learning during critical stages of childhood development. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that tooth decay affects 1 in 4 children under age five, half of children ages 6-11, and nearly 60 percent of adolescents ages 12-19 untreated decay is more than twice as likely for children in low-income families, compared to those in higher-income households. HRSA Title VII programs are an important tool in meeting the unmet oral health needs of many of these families. - Continued funding for pediatric dentistry training programs helps more dental students enter the field prepared to address these needs by treating children covered by Medicaid and CHIP and practicing in under-served areas. Additionally, dental faculty repayment programs incentivize professionals to help train future practitioners to meet such needs. We thank the Subcommittee for its support of these programs in past years, and urge continued funding in order to further stem the tide of preventable childhood dental disease.  |