



February 12, 2021

Liz Richter
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
Department of Health and Human Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Re: Chief Dental Officer Position

Dear Acting Administrator Richter:

On behalf of the 163,000 members of the American Dental Association (ADA) and the 10,800 members of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), we are writing to thank CMS for moving ahead to fill the Chief Dental Officer (CDO) position within the agency. As organizations dedicated to advancing the oral health of the public, especially those vulnerable populations served by Medicaid and CHIP, we are concerned that the CMS CDO position has been vacant since October 2017.

The ADA and AAPD commend CMS for appointing Dr. Natalia Chalmers to serve as CMS dental officer over the past six months, on assignment from the Food and Drug Administration. Even in this short time, Dr. Chalmers has made a significant positive impact on a number of Medicaid and CHIP dental issues. Dr. Chalmers clearly possesses the training and background (as a pediatric dentist), compassion, scientific expertise, and leadership skills that would greatly benefit CMS. She is one of a limited number of dentists in the country with expertise in both Medicaid and CHIP policy and health services research related to oral health access. In consideration of the needs of CMS and the populations served by the programs your agency administers, we urge you to select Dr. Chalmers as the permanent CMS Chief Dental Officer.

The ADA and AAPD look forward to continuing to work with CMS and we would welcome the opportunity to speak with you in more detail and answer any questions you have regarding this letter. Please contact Mr. David Linn at the ADA at (202) 789-5170 and linnd@ada.org or Mr. C. Scott Litch at the AAPD at (312) 337-2169 and slitch@aapd.org to facilitate further discussion.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Daniel J. Klemmedson in black ink.

Daniel J. Klemmedson, D.D.S., M.D.
President, ADA

Handwritten signature of Jessica A. Lee in black ink.

Jessica A. Lee, D.D.S, M.P.H., PhD
President, AAPD

cc: Anne Marie Costello, Acting Deputy Administrator & Director, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services