

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

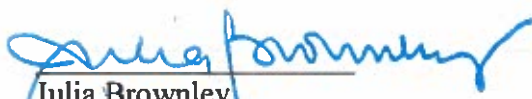
As you work to develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill, we ask for your continued support for programs crucial to addressing the unmet oral health needs of America's children. Specifically, we urge continued funding for Health Resources and 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 5 children under age five, nearly half of children ages 6-11, and more than half 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.

Sincerely,


Julia Brownley
Member of Congress


David Cicilline
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
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Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress



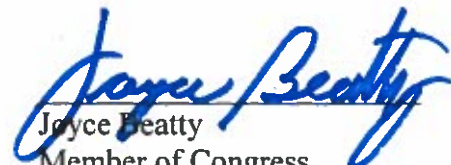
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



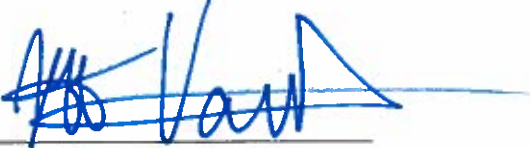
Brad Schneider
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



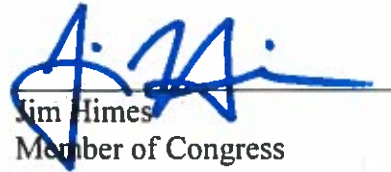
Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress



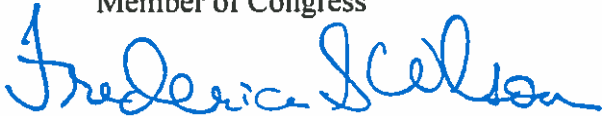
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress



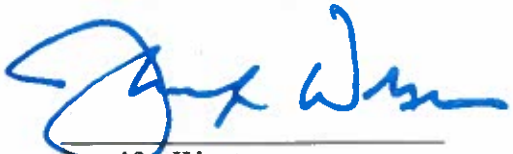
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



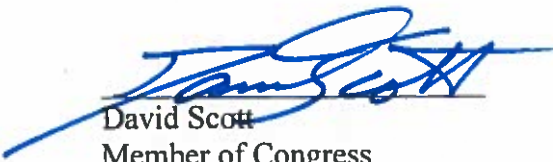
Denny Heck
Member of Congress



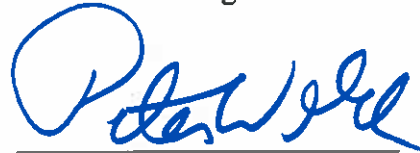
Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Katie Hill
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Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
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John B. Larson

John B. Larson
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Brad Sherman
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