

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chair of House Ways and Means Committee
372 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Neal, and Chairman Pallone,

Thank you for your steadfast leadership to address the on-going oral health crisis many families in America face. As organizations and advocates representing health care consumers, older adults, people with disabilities, patients, providers, industry, social service, and others, **we are writing to express our appreciation and support for the legislation advanced in the Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committees that would add oral health coverage to Medicare Part B.**

This extension of Medicare Part B to include dental, vision and hearing coverage is a critical piece of rebuilding our nation's health and wellbeing. Dental coverage that will ensure that oral health care is no longer unaffordable and out of reach is particularly important to economic recovery and health equity.

- Adding oral health coverage to Medicare Part B would allow 60 million older adults and people with disabilities to not only be able to get important dental care, but to also be healthier, have lower health care costs, and be better able to get and keep jobs.
- Even before the pandemic, roughly half of Medicare enrollees did not have a dental visit in the past year—often skipping care due to cost. Moreover, 68% of Black beneficiaries and 61% of Hispanic beneficiaries did not have a dental visit in the same year.

Medicare oral health coverage is overwhelmingly popular, with a recent poll finding nearly 9 in 10 voters support adding oral health coverage to Medicare. When asked which health care issues Congress should work on this year, adding Medicare dental coverage – alongside vision and hearing coverage – is far and away the most popular health care proposal that is currently on the table.

We appreciate the hard work from leadership and the committees to address and prioritize dental coverage in Medicare Part B as part of Budget Reconciliation legislation. The millions of older adults and people with disabilities across this country who rely on Medicare will finally be able to afford care that too many currently go without due to the cost.

We look forward to working with all of you, as well as your colleagues in the Senate, to move Medicare dental coverage forward and where possible, to strengthen the legislation before final passage. **Our priority is to ensure that people who rely on Medicare for their health care can get the most robust dental coverage possible as quickly as is feasible.** Specifically, we support improvements that would ensure that major dental services (which are the hardest to afford) are covered at 80%, in line with other Part B services, and that dental coverage reaches Medicare enrollees sooner than seven years from now.

Thank you for your leadership and for continuing the fight to ensure that families have access to affordable and quality health care, including oral health care. We look forward to working with you to secure passage of the final package.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Alliance for Retired Americans

ALS Association

American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research

American Association of Public Health Dentistry

American Association on Health and Disability and Lakeshore Foundation

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)

American Board of Dental Public Health

American Dental Hygienists' Association

American Geriatrics Society

American Heart Association

American Institute of Dental Public Health

American Medical Student Association

American Public Health Association's Oral Health Section

American Society of Nephrology

Arthritis Foundation

Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW)

Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors

Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)

Brain Injury Association of America

CareQuest Institute for Oral Health

Center for Medicare Advocacy

Families USA

First Church of Chris Holiness (USA)

Justice in Aging

Lower Drug Prices Now

Medicaid|Medicare|CHIP Services Dental Association

Medicare Rights Center

National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS)

National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity

National Council on Aging

National Kidney Foundation

National Network for Oral Health Access

National Rural Health Association

Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN, Inc.)

Project Accessible Oral Health

Public Citizen

Social Security Works

The AIDS Institute

The Arc of the United States

The Gerontological Society of America

United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS)

USAging

Alaska

Alaska Primary Care Association

Alabama

Alabama Head Start Association
Lakeshore Foundation

Arizona

Area Agency on Aging, Region One, Inc.
Arizona Oral Health Coalition
Asian Pacific Community in Action
AZ AANHPI for Equity
Children's Action Alliance
Island Liaison, Inc.
Unlimited Potential

Arkansas

Boston Mountain Rural Health Center, Inc

California

Asian Resources, Inc
Butte County Public Authority
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
Case Management
Chinese Community Health Care Association
City/County of San Francisco DAS/APS
Commission on Aging - San Joaquin county
Cornerstone Dental Services
Dientes Community Dental Care
LifeSTEPS
Maternal and Child Health Access
Pacific Dental Services (PDS)
Pacific Dental Services Foundation

Positive Resource Center
Senior Advocates of the Desert
Sepsis Alliance
SJC Commission on Aging
Western Center on Law & Poverty
Winters Elder Day Council

Colorado

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Community Dental Health NPO
Davis Phinney Foundation
National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health

Connecticut

CSTAC-Ministerial Health Fellowship
New Milford Senior Center
The Connecticut Oral Health Initiative, Inc.
Wethersfield Social and Youth

Delaware

Delaware Dental Hygienists' Association
Delaware Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Florida

Florida Health Justice Project

Georgia

Altamaha Heart of Georgia Area Agency on Aging

Hawaii

Hawai'i Children's Action Network
Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition
Hawaii Public Health Institute

Illinois

Heartland Alliance
Progress Center

Indiana

Indiana Primary Health Care Association

Kansas

Oral Health Kansas, Inc.

Kentucky

Kentucky Oral Health Coalition
Kentucky Youth Advocates
McNary Group

Louisiana

EXCELth, Inc.
THEGAL

Massachusetts

Health Care for All MA
Mass. ME/CFS and FM Association

Maryland

Maryland Dental Action Coalition

National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)

National Dental Association

Maine

Maine Equal Justice
The Bingham Program

Michigan

Kent County Oral Health Coalition
Michigan Oral Health Coalition
Neighborhood Service Organization
Propylon Nonprofit Housing

Minnesota

Minnesota Community Care East Side Dental
West Central Initiative

Mississippi

Smiles To Go

Missouri

Alpha Terrace Apartments
Integrate Health

New Hampshire

ABLE NH (Advocates Building Lasting Equality in NH)
New Hampshire Public Health Association
New Hampshire Oral Health Coalition

New Jersey

Bergen County Department of Health

New Mexico

Senior Citizens' Law Office, Albuquerque, NM

New York

Center for Elder Law & Justice

Columbia County Office of the Aging

NYU College of Dentistry

Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice Program (OHNEP)

Santa Fe Group

Support For People with Oral and Head and Neck Cancer (SPOHNC)

North Carolina

North Carolina Justice Center

Ohio

Mayfield Manor

Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans Educational Fund

Oral Health Ohio

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Oral Health Coalition

Southern Plains Tribal Health Board

Oregon

AllCare Health

Health Care for All Oregon

Klamath Basin Oral Health Coalition

South Coast Oral Health Coalition

Pennsylvania

Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly (CARIE)

One Pennsylvania

PA Coalition for Oral Health

South Carolina

City of Charleston Mayor's Office on Aging

Our Mother's Voice

Tennessee

Faith That Heals Tennessee Conference, United Methodists Church

TNUMC Board of Church and Society

Wesley Living Woodland Homes

Texas

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

Gulf Coast ADAPT

Texas Oral Health Coalition, Inc

Texas Parent to Parent

UUFHCT

Utah

Senior Charity Care Foundation

Virginia

Senior Charity Care Foundation
Birth in Color RVA
Carlson Foley Enterprises LLC
Central Virginia Health Services
Community Access Network Dental Center
Culpeper Wellness Foundation
Free Clinic of Central Virginia
Healthy Living and Learning Center
Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area
Home Smiles Inc
Jon C Burr Foundation
Legal Aid Justice Center
New Horizons Healthcare
Northern Neck Middlesex Free Health Clinic
Piedmont Regional Dental Clinic
Prince William NAACP
Sjogren's Foundation
The CornerStone Free Health Clinic
The Free Clinic of Culpeper
Tri-Area Community Health
Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics
Virginia Community Healthcare Associations
Virginia Department of Health
Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association
Virginia Health Catalyst
Virginia Hemophilia Foundation
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
Virginia Organizing

Virginia Rural Health Association

Vermont

Southern Vermont Area Health Education Center

Washington

Alliance of Dental Hygiene Practitioners
Rural Resources Community Action
Statewide Poverty Action Network

Wisconsin

Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc.
Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network

West Virginia

West Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association
West Virginia Oral Health Coalition