

April 17, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of our collective dental organizations, we are writing to thank you for your strong support of small businesses across the country during this public health emergency. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act, in part, seeks to help small businesses maintain employees on their payrolls, as well as provide for disaster relief through the use of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL). We believe the PPP and EIDL being administered through the Small Business Administration (SBA) will be vital in keeping dentists across the country from closing their practices.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, as of 2018 there are 30.2 million small businesses in the country. The CARES Act has appropriated \$10 billion for EIDL grants and \$350 billion for the PPP. While generous, we believe additional funding will be necessary to stem the closing of dental practices as well as millions of other small businesses, which could result in massive job losses and bankruptcies. In the first few days of loans being open for application, the SBA has already allocated over \$200 billion in funding.

We strongly support the Congressional efforts underway to increase funding for the PPP loans, EIDL loans, and EIDL grants to the greatest extent possible. Additional funding for these loans will help ease the burdens many dental practices and other small businesses are facing as the pandemic continues without an end in sight. Crucial business decisions will need to be made in the coming weeks and without additional funding we fear a return to normalcy will not be possible for many.

We further urge Congress to help streamline the SBA loan application process as many dentists report having great difficulty in accessing available loans and grants. We also request that the decision to limit the EIDL grants to \$1,000 per employee be rescinded, as this does not take into account differences in compensation and small businesses were not aware of this limit when applying.

We would also like you to consider allowing small business dental practices to choose the 8-week period for which they seek forgiveness for the loans and rehire back staff before December 31, 2020, instead of requiring them to rehire staff by June 30, 2020. This would allow these practices to make decisions about staffing and payroll based on when they plan to fully reopen. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration classifies dental health care personnel in the **very high exposure risk** category<sup>1</sup> and the ability to fully reopen dental

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Infection Control – Dental Settings](#), April 2020.

practices is contingent on the ability to completely control the coronavirus pandemic in a relatively short period of time.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you in more detail and answer any questions you have regarding these comments. Please contact Megan Mortimer at [mortimerm@ada.org](mailto:mortimerm@ada.org) or (202) 701-9593 to facilitate further discussions.

Sincerely,

American Dental Association  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Academy of General Dentistry  
American Academy of Dental Group Practice  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology  
American Academy of Periodontology  
American Academy of Women Dentists  
American Association of Orthodontists  
American Student Dental Association  
American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists  
National Dental Association  
National Association of Dental Laboratories  
Alabama Dental Association  
Alabama Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Alaska Dental Society  
Alaska Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Arizona Dental Association  
Arkansas State Dental Association  
California Dental Association  
Colorado Dental Association  
Connecticut State Dental Association  
Connecticut Society of Pediatric Dentists  
DC Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Delaware State Dental Society  
Florida Dental Association  
Georgia Dental Association  
Hawaii Dental Association  
Idaho State Dental Association  
Illinois State Dental Society  
Illinois Society of Pediatric Dentists  
Indiana Dental Association  
Indiana Society of Pediatric Dentistry  
Iowa Dental Association  
Iowa Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Kansas Dental Association  
Kentucky Dental Association  
Kentucky Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Louisiana Dental Association  
Maine Dental Association  
Maryland Dental Association

Maryland Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Massachusetts Dental Society  
Massachusetts Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Michigan Dental Association  
Minnesota Dental Association  
Minnesota Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Mississippi Dental Association  
Mississippi Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Missouri Dental Association  
Missouri Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Montana Dental Association  
National Association of Dental Laboratories  
Nebraska Dental Association  
New Hampshire Dental Society  
New Hampshire Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Nevada Dental Association  
New Jersey Dental Association  
New Jersey Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
New Mexico Dental Association  
New York State Dental Association  
North Carolina Dental Society  
North Carolina Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
North Dakota Dental Association  
Ohio Dental Association  
Ohio Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Oklahoma Dental Association  
Oklahoma Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Oregon Dental Association  
Oregon Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Pennsylvania Dental Association  
Rhode Island Dental Association  
South Carolina Dental Association  
South Carolina Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
South Dakota Dental Association  
Tennessee Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Texas Dental Association  
Utah Dental Association  
Vermont State Dental Society  
Vermont Society of Pediatric Dentistry  
Virginia Dental Association  
Washington State Dental Association  
Washington State Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Wisconsin Dental Association  
Wisconsin Academy of Pediatric Dentistry