

# 2020 AAPD Pediatric Oral Health Advocacy Conference

## Your talking points for Congressional visits



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# Asks for all offices

**1a. Fund Title VII Pediatric Dentistry at \$12 million.**

**1b. Make dental faculty loan repayments non-taxable to recipient. Co-sponsor S. 359 / H.R. 996. Or thank them.**



# Asks for all offices

**2. Co-sponsor Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act . . . or thank them for doing so.**

**3. Co-sponsor REDI Act . . . or thank them for doing so.**



# The Introduction

- \* **Team leader or lead constituent (dentist who works or lives in House member's district) should introduce yourself and group.** This could be the residency program director in some cases.
- \* Remind them you are a group of **pediatric dentists** from their state.



# \*AND

- \* Your group is representing the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry — and pediatric dentists are the BIG AUTHORITY on little teeth!
- \* Many state groups have pediatric dental residents. **Members of Congress love seeing the future of the profession!**



# Mention a key oral health fact

- \* Refer to facts/figures/graphics on inside of Blue Folder, pick out your favorite to highlight:

*Early engagement in a dental home, by age 1, decreases the likelihood of dental disease and reduces costs.*

*Children with dental problems are more likely to have problems at school – including psychosocial problems, missed school days, and are less likely to do all required homework.*



# Briefly describe pediatric dentists (unless office already knows you well)

- \* Pediatric dental practices are the backbone of the oral health care for our nation's children.
- \* On average, **70%** of pediatric dentists participate in Medicaid or CHIP, comprising **34%** of their patients.
- \* Pediatric dentists provide significant amounts of free or discounted care.
- \* Pediatric dentists train general dentists to treat children.



# Pediatric dentists help improve access for children in need

**Despite challenges, more children are receiving dental care under Medicaid in recent years- *thanks in large part to an increase in the number of Pediatric Dentists spurred by Title VII funding.***

As you heard this morning per AAPD's workforce study, Title VII essentially fixed the national shortage of pediatric dentists over the past 20 years.



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# AAPD is committed to optimal oral health for every child

## Dental Home definition (if anyone asks)

An ongoing relationship with a primary dental care provider and patient in which oral health care is delivered in a comprehensive, continuously accessible and family-centered manner.

Refer them to the *Age One Dental Visit* Technical Brief in your packet for more information.



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# 1st (and #1 priority) issue — Title VII Pediatric Dentistry Appropriations

- \* In the FY 2021 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, we support \$40.673 million for the primary care dental Title VII program with \$12 million for **Title VII Pediatric Dentistry that includes funding for the Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program.** This is level funding (same as that provided in FY 2020).
- \* Thank them for their past support of this issue—especially those who signed the *Dear Colleague* letter in the House last year (there's a list on the top of this year's *Dear Colleague* letter).



# Why Title VII?

**Title VII Pediatric Dentistry** program is critical to ensure an adequate supply of skilled pediatric dentists to the nation's needs, **especially with a focus** on:

- \* Preparing residents to treat under-served populations and/or practice in under-served areas.
- \* Dental Faculty Loan Repayment to ensure that expert teachers and researchers are available.



# Title VII Appropriations

- \* If your state/your program has a current Title VII **dental faculty loan repayment, postdoctoral or predoctoral dental grant**, highlight its achievements. *See background sheet (not a Congressional handout).*
- \* **If a personal DFLRP recipient story is relevant to your state, use it as a talking point.** *See profiles sheet (not a Congressional handout).*



# Title VII Appropriations

If your program applied for a FY 2020 HRSA **postdoctoral training grant**, talk about it and how—if funded—it will improve your training program and children's oral health access in the community.



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# For team leader or visit leader

## MAKE THE ASK

- \* Can they support our proposed pediatric dental Title VII FY 2021 appropriations request?
- \* For Appropriations Committee members, ask them to put it on their priority list.



# For team leader or visit leader

## MAKE THE ASK

- \* For House members, if not on Appropriations Committee, ask them to sign onto the FY 2021 *Dear Colleague* letter being circulated.
- \* It's in your handout packets.



# *Dear Colleague Letter*

- \* Spearheaded again by **Congresswoman Julia Brownley** (D- Calif. 26th).
- \* Final letter will be sent to Chair and Ranking Members of Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee.
- \* There were 40 signatures last year on Brownley's letter. Thank those members accordingly (this was on your Key Congressional member list) and ask to sign again.
- \* Sign-on deadline is Friday, March 6, 2020.





# *Related Issue*

- \* Dental faculty loan repayment program would have even greater impact if excluded from income tax to recipient.
- \* **Please co-sponsor S. 359 / H.R. 996. Clarke-Simpson-Gosar-Meng in House and Cardin-Wicker in Senate (a bi-partisan effort).**
- \* If already a co-sponsor, thank them.



# 2nd issue — ENSURING LASTING SMILES ACT

- \* Ask them to co-sponsor, or thank them for co-sponsoring, S. 560 or H.R. 1379.
- \* This would require all private group and individual health plans to cover the full **medically necessary treatment of patients with congenital anomalies**, including related dental procedures.



# 2nd issue — ENSURING LASTING SMILES ACT

- \* You can describe children you have treated with such conditions.
- \* As indicated on the fact sheet/letter, **a large coalition of organizations representing dentists and patient groups support this legislation.**
- \* There are an impressive number of Congressional co-sponsors.



# 3rd issue — Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act

*If time permits, this is a good issue for residents to raise.*

- Legislation introduced by Congressman (and dentist) **Brian Babin** (R-Texas 36th) as H.R. 1554.
- **Bill will allow dental and medical residents to obtain deferments while in training without accrual of student loan interest.**



# 3rd issue — REDI Act

- This is one of the student loan reform efforts that would help reduce debt load . . . and make it easier for a pediatric dentist to work in an under-served area or as dental faculty.
- **Ask them to co-sponsor or thank them if already a co-sponsor.**



# Student loan debt story

- **When talking about dental student loan debt, your personal story is the most compelling and important, rather than reciting overall dental debt statistics.**



# The wrap up for visit leader

- \* **Thank them for their time and consideration of your requests!**
- \* Ask if ok to contact them in a week or two to follow-up on your requests (except for *Dear Colleague* letter which has an immediate deadline)?



# For all visits you are dropping off . . .

1. Blue folder with Fact Sheets and *Dear Colleague* Letter.
2. Research and Policy Center Technical Brief on *The Importance of the Age One Dental Visit*.
3. Your business card.



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# For all visits . . .

- \* **NOTE THAT IN A FEW KEY OFFICES, AAPD EXPERTS\* WILL JOIN YOU.**
- \* **If offices have technical questions you can't answer you can let them know AAPD HQ will get back in touch with them.**

*\* Meaning AAPD staff or Mike Gilliland/ Kate McAuliffe of Hogan Lovells, Congressional Liaison Heber Simmons Jr., Congressional Liaison-co-designees Warren Brill and Jade Miller, or me.*



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# The wrap up for the team

- \* Have someone on the team fill out the electronic Congressional visit review form while the visit is still fresh in your mind:

<https://aapdhq.wufoo.com/forms/zdkpn8j0zq7lfd/>

- \* Consider inviting the Member and /or staff person to visit your practice or clinic when back in the state or district.



# Walking logistics . . .

- \* **YOU CAN GO UNDERGROUND BETWEEN THE 3 HOUSE BUILDINGS AND THE 3 SENATE BUILDINGS TO SAVE TIME AVOIDING SECURITY AT OUTSIDE ENTRANCES.**



# Rest and Recharge between visits

- \* Cafeterias in House Longworth and Rayburn Buildings, and Senate Dirksen Building.

- \* **ADA Townhouse on Capitol Hill**

Open for AAPD attendees from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. House side: 137 C Street SE.  
Complimentary snacks and beverages.



# My Tips for a Succinct Presentation

- \* Keep eye contact and watch body language, listen for questions. Don't do all the talking- let Member/Staff ask questions.
- \* Move it along but don't rush.
- \* Go over role for each person in group — be ready to speak. **This is critical given time limitations.**
- \* Try to answer their questions accurately but if you don't know, say you'll check and get back to them. This is perfectly acceptable behavior!



# My contact information

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***If something comes up you can call or text***

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