

Action for Dental Health Act (H.R. 2001)

- ❖ Please urge your Representative to cosponsor the Action for Dental Health Act (H.R. 2001).
- ❖ This bill has not yet been introduced in the Senate.
- ❖ H.R. 2001 would reauthorize critical state grants to support dental health workforce initiatives in areas with dental health provider shortages through fiscal year (FY) 2030.
- ❖ This legislation was introduced by Representatives Robin Kelly (D-IL-2) and Mike Simpson (R-ID-2).
- ❖ The Action for Dental Health Act overwhelmingly passed the House in the 118th Congress by a 391-32 vote and was pending before the Senate HELP Committee. We urge the 119th Congress to once again act on this important legislation.

Background

H.R. 2001 would reauthorize the Action for Dental Health Act, which was originally passed in 2018, to provide the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) \$15 million in annual funding for oral health workforce grants from 2026 to 2030.

Grants authorized by the Action for Dental Health Act improve oral health workforce capacity and increase access to dental health services. These grants are especially important in rural and underserved areas that face workforce shortages which affect access to dental care.

As of May 1, 2024, HRSA has identified 6,830 Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) for dental health providers. H.R. 2001 would continue authorizing critical grants to reduce the dental workforce shortage and bolster access to oral health care.

H.R. 2001 the Action for Dental Health Act

H.R. 2001, the Action for Dental Health Act would reauthorize funding for HRSA's oral health workforce grants. Funding from these grants could be used for the following workforce initiatives:

- Dental recruitment and retention efforts;
- Continuing dental education, including distance-based education;
- Establishing or expanding dental residency programs in coordination with accredited dental training institutions in states without dental schools;
- Establishing faculty recruitment programs at accredited dental training institutions;
- Grants and low or no-interest loans to help dentists who participate in the Medicaid program establish or expand practices in designated dental HPSAs; and
- Loan forgiveness and repayment programs.

H.R. 2001 would support rural and underserved communities by bolstering their oral health workforce and improving access to crucial dental services.

Who is the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD)?

Founded in 1952, the AGD has over 40,000 members from across the United States and is the only professional association that exclusively represents the needs and interests of general dentists. As the country's second-largest dental association, AGD works to promote oral health to the public and foster general dentists' continued proficiency through quality continuing education.