

AGD END OF YEAR REPORT

Overview

The AGD government relations team actively monitors and tracks legislation pertinent to the general dentistry industry. As issues and legislatures vary from state to state, the AGD works alongside constituent leadership to help determine position and action that will most benefit general dentists and their patients.

Congress Funds AGD-backed Oral Health Literacy and Awareness Campaign

The U.S. Congress passed the Omnibus Appropriation Bill that included an appropriation of \$300,000 to fund the oral health awareness and education campaign that is being developed by HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration). AGD is a leading advocate for this campaign.

The aim of the campaign is to “identify oral health literacy strategies that are evidence-based and focused on oral health care prevention and education, including prevention of oral disease such as early childhood and other caries, periodontal disease, and oral cancer.”

AGD is proud to be an advocate for a campaign to educate the public on the importance of oral health.

AGD Responds to Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry’s (ACTPCMD) recommendations in its Nineteenth Annual Report: Supporting Dental Therapy Through Title VII Programs: A Meaningful Strategy for Implementing Equitable Oral Health Care

AGD submitted a [letter](#) to HRSA expressing its deep concerns with the recommendations in the Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry’s (ACTPCMD) Nineteenth Annual Report: Supporting Dental Therapy Through Title VII Programs: A Meaningful Strategy for Implementing Equitable Oral Health Care. The Report recommended increasing funding for dental therapy to achieve more equitable oral health care.

The AGD letter outlines how increasing access to care can be addressed more fruitfully via Medicaid and other reforms instead of the use of mid-level providers.

AGD Comments on CMS Rule to Expand Dental Coverage Under Medicare

AGD submitted a [comment](#) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed rule to expand access to dental services deemed “medically necessary” under Medicare.

AGD stated that it would be inappropriate for CMS to use the rulemaking process to expand Medicare coverage of dental services without Congress first passing a law to grant the agency that authority. AGD opposed the inclusion and codification of language in its final rule that would expand coverage of certain dental services under the guise that they are, “inextricably linked to, and substantially related and



560 W. Lake St. 312.440.4300
Sixth Floor Fax: 312.440.0559
Chicago, IL USA Toll-free: 888.243.3368
60661-6600 agd.org

integral to the clinical success of, an otherwise covered medical service.” AGD stated that CMS failed to provide scientific justification for including these dental services and opposed other text on the grounds that it was too broad and not specific enough to apply to the rule.

AGD Supports Massachusetts Ballot Question 2

The AGD Board approved a contribution of \$50,000 from the AGD Advocacy Fund to support a statewide ballot initiative in Massachusetts — [Question 2](#) — that requires dental insurance companies to spend at least 83% of premium dollars collected on dental services or refund the difference to patients.

Ballot question 2 passed overwhelmingly with 72% of the vote and fifteen to twenty states are expected to introduce similar legislation this year.