



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

May 22, 2020

The Honorable Dean Phillips
United States House of Representatives
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chip Roy
United States House of Representatives
1319 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Phillips and Roy:

On behalf of the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) and its 39,000 members, I would like to thank you for your efforts to support small businesses dealing with the impacts of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) by introducing H.R.6886, the *Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act*. We strongly support H.R.6886 and its provisions to make the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) created under the CARES Act more accessible and practical for small businesses as they tailor loans they receive to their specific operational needs.

PPP loans have been a lifeline for dentists during this crisis, as many dental practices have been closed for all but emergency care and states are still in the preliminary stages of reopening. April employment data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics on May 8, 2020, found that dental offices have suffered the highest amount of job losses within the health care industry, with a 47.5% decline in employment between March and April, amounting to 503,000 jobs¹. With patient volumes still at drastically low levels and dental staff apprehensive about returning to workplaces classified in the very high exposure risk category² by OSHA, many owner-dentists will be unable to fully re-staff in time to comply with the current PPP loan forgiveness deadlines dictated under the CARES Act.

AGD greatly appreciates the provisions in H.R.6886 that would extend the PPP loan forgiveness coverage period up to 24 weeks, remove the 25% cap on non-payroll expenses, and extend the June 30 safe harbor date for rehiring and restoration of pay. These commonsense changes will be vital for the dental practices that have suffered an enormous financial impact during the crisis. Many dentists are still navigating difficult decisions to support their patients, staff, and small businesses while weighing the uncertainties associated with reopening and providing care.

AGD and its members are thankful for the work Congress has already accomplished in responding to COVID-19 and providing relief for Americans. We look forward to continuing to work with you during this critical time to protect the health of our nation and stand ready to help advance the *Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act* in Congress. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Daniel J. Buksa, JD, Associate Executive Director of Public Affairs, by phone at (312) 440-4328 or via email at daniel.buksa@agd.org to let us know how we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Connie White, D.D.S., FAGD
President
Academy of General Dentistry

¹ THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION — APRIL 2020, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2020
(<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>)

² Occupational Safety and Health Administration, [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#), March 2020.