January 07, 2022

The Honorable Tony Cardenas

U.S. House of Representatives

2438 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis

U.S. House of Representatives

2354 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Cardenas and Bilirakis:

On behalf of the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) and its 40,000 members, we thank you for your efforts to secure passage of H.R.4555*,* the Oral Health Literacy and Awareness Act of 2021, in the House of Representatives**.** Improving oral health literacy and working to advance H.R.4555 in Congress is a key component of the AGD’s advocacy agenda.

The AGD’s mission is to promote the public’s oral health, serve the needs and represent the interests of general dentists, and foster continued proficiency of general dentists through quality continuing dental education to better serve those we treat. Our members are the gatekeepers of their patients’ oral health and remain at the heart of the ongoing discussion to expand access to oral health care.

As you are aware, H.R.4555 would amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to increase oral health literacy and awareness in specific at-risk populations through a multi-year public health education campaign. Oral health literacy is essential to improving health outcomes and to reducing costs and achieving equity in our health care system.

Thank you again for sponsorship of H.R.4555 and the work you and your staff put into securing its passage in the House of Representatives. The AGD will continue to advocate tirelessly for the legislation in the Senate. We look forward to working with your office in the future to advance oral health literacy. If the AGD can be of any further assistance, 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](mailto:daniel.buksa@agd.org).

Sincerely,

Text, letter

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Gerry Botko, D.M.D., MAGD

President

Academy of General Dentistry

Myron (Mike) Bromberg, D.D.S.

Congressional Liaison

Academy of General Dentistry