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October 29, 2024

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Subcommittee Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Subcommittee Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Aderholt, Chair Baldwin, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Ranking Member Capito:

On behalf of our 40,000 members, the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) is writing to express support for the continued investment in critical dental workforce and oral health-related programs.

Specifically, we request your support for funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII dental and oral health programs. Oral Health Training Programs increase access to high-quality dental health services in rural and other underserved communities by increasing the number of oral health care providers working in underserved areas and improving training programs for these providers.

The Senate recommends \$42,673,000 for Training in Oral Health Care Programs, including not less than \$13,000,000 for general dentistry programs, \$13,000,000 for pediatric dentistry programs, and \$15,000,000 for state oral health workforce grants. The House recommends \$43,673,000 for Oral Health Training programs, which includes not less than \$13,500,000 for general dentistry programs, not less than \$13,500,000 for pediatric dentistry programs, and not less than \$15,000,000 for state oral health workforce grants. The AGD encourages funding no less than the House recommendations listed above.

Further, we want to highlight the importance of two successful programs that are vital to general dentistry and the American population's oral health. First, as you know, the General

Dentistry Residency program funds intensive postgraduate training programs designed to train the general dentist in the management of medically complex and special needs patients in both outpatient and hospital settings while increasing knowledge in the practice of dentistry. The AGD was established to represent general dentistry, and we support this critically important program.

Second, the AGD encourages continued support for oral health awareness and education across relevant HRSA divisions. The importance of oral disease prevention in the form of oral health literacy is often overlooked, much to the detriment of our nation's oral health needs. The vast majority of oral health ailments can be avoided by increasing oral health literacy and awareness. This is especially important within the vulnerable populations HRSA seeks to serve.

We deeply appreciate your continued support of general dentistry. Your commitment to this cause is invaluable. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues in greater detail, please contact Daniel J. Buksa, JD, CAE, Interim Executive Director, by phone at (312) 440-4328 or via email at [daniel.buksa@agd.org](mailto:daniel.buksa@agd.org).

Sincerely,



Merlin P. Ohmer, DDS, MAGD  
President  
Academy of General Dentistry



Darren Greenwell, DMD, MAGD  
Congressional Liaison  
Academy of General Dentistry