

April 17, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of our collective dental organizations, we are writing to thank you for your strong support of small businesses across the country during this public health emergency. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act, in part, seeks to help small businesses maintain employees on their payrolls, as well as provide for disaster relief through the use of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL). We believe the PPP and EIDL being administered through the Small Business Administration (SBA) will be vital in keeping dentists across the country from closing their practices.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, as of 2018 there are 30.2 million small businesses in the country. The CARES Act has appropriated \$10 billion for EIDL grants and \$350 billion for the PPP. While generous, we believe additional funding will be necessary to stem the closing of dental practices as well as millions of other small businesses, which could result in massive job losses and bankruptcies. In the first few days of loans being open for application, the SBA has already allocated over \$200 billion in funding.

We strongly support the Congressional efforts underway to increase funding for the PPP loans, EIDL loans, and EIDL grants to the greatest extent possible. Additional funding for these loans will help ease the burdens many dental practices and other small businesses are facing as the pandemic continues without an end in sight. Crucial business decisions will need to be made in the coming weeks and without additional funding we fear a return to normalcy will not be possible for many.

We further urge Congress to help streamline the SBA loan application process as many dentists report having great difficulty in accessing available loans and grants. We also request that the decision to limit the EIDL grants to \$1,000 per employee be rescinded, as this does not take into account differences in compensation and small businesses were not aware of this limit when applying.

We would also like you to consider allowing small business dental practices to choose the 8-week period for which they seek forgiveness for the loans and rehire back staff before December 31, 2020, instead of requiring them to rehire staff by June 30, 2020. This would allow these practices to make decisions about staffing and payroll based on when they plan to fully reopen. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration classifies dental health care personnel in the **very high exposure risk** category¹ and the ability to fully reopen dental

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Infection Control – Dental Settings](#), April 2020.

practices is contingent on the ability to completely control the coronavirus pandemic in a relatively short period of time.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you in more detail and answer any questions you have regarding these comments. Please contact Megan Mortimer at mortimerm@ada.org or (202) 701-9593 to facilitate further discussions.

Sincerely,

American Dental Association
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Academy of General Dentistry
American Academy of Dental Group Practice
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
American Academy of Periodontology
American Academy of Women Dentists
American Association of Orthodontists
American Student Dental Association
American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists
National Dental Association
National Association of Dental Laboratories
Alabama Dental Association
Alabama Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Alaska Dental Society
Alaska Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Arizona Dental Association
Arkansas State Dental Association
California Dental Association
Colorado Dental Association
Connecticut State Dental Association
Connecticut Society of Pediatric Dentists
DC Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Delaware State Dental Society
Florida Dental Association
Georgia Dental Association
Hawaii Dental Association
Idaho State Dental Association
Illinois State Dental Society
Illinois Society of Pediatric Dentists
Indiana Dental Association
Indiana Society of Pediatric Dentistry
Iowa Dental Association
Iowa Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Kansas Dental Association
Kentucky Dental Association
Kentucky Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Louisiana Dental Association
Maine Dental Association
Maryland Dental Association

Maryland Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Massachusetts Dental Society
Massachusetts Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Michigan Dental Association
Minnesota Dental Association
Minnesota Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Mississippi Dental Association
Mississippi Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Missouri Dental Association
Missouri Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Montana Dental Association
National Association of Dental Laboratories
Nebraska Dental Association
New Hampshire Dental Society
New Hampshire Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Nevada Dental Association
New Jersey Dental Association
New Jersey Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
New Mexico Dental Association
New York State Dental Association
North Carolina Dental Society
North Carolina Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
North Dakota Dental Association
Ohio Dental Association
Ohio Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Oklahoma Dental Association
Oklahoma Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Oregon Dental Association
Oregon Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Pennsylvania Dental Association
Rhode Island Dental Association
South Carolina Dental Association
South Carolina Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
South Dakota Dental Association
Tennessee Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Texas Dental Association
Utah Dental Association
Vermont State Dental Society
Vermont Society of Pediatric Dentistry
Virginia Dental Association
Washington State Dental Association
Washington State Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Wisconsin Dental Association
Wisconsin Academy of Pediatric Dentistry