

SAMPLE THANK YOU LETTER
(To be edited and used on your personal letterhead or stationery)

{DATE}

The Honorable

Washington, DC

Dear {Senator/Representative/name of Staffer}:

On behalf of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), please accept my heartfelt thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to meet with {our group/me} as part of our 8th Annual Day on the Hill program on April 16.

Your support of HR 1655, the “*Children's Access to Reconstructive Evaluation & Surgery (CARES) Act of 2007*”, will protect and promote access to treatment for childhood deformities and craniofacial abnormalities (e.g., Cleft lip and palate). An increasing number of insurance companies are denying access to reconstructive surgery because they do not consider treatment for the condition to be medically necessary. As we discussed during our meeting, craniofacial anomalies may “appear” to be only cosmetic, but this condition often impedes a child’s daily functioning, such as chewing food and normal speech.

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is a unique dental specialty encompassed by individual issues that impact our ability to provide quality care for our patients. Last year’s death of Deamonte Driver, a 12 year old Maryland resident, as a result of complications from an abscessed tooth has highlighted the need to expand basic oral health coverage to the nation’s uninsured and underinsured children. We encourage members of Congress to ensure oral healthcare services are given the utmost consideration in legislative proposals and actions when addressing access to care issues. We ask Congress to support, in particular, the “*Essential Oral Health Act of 2007*” (H.R. 2472) as it goes the furthest to encourage dental provider participation which will significantly improve access to oral healthcare.

Finally, the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) believes it is critical that OMSs be allowed to refer for outpatient physical therapy and to establish and monitor therapy plans of care for their patients. During the second session of the 110th Congress, AAOMS seeks House co-sponsors of the “*Medicare Oral Health Rehabilitative Enhancement Act of 2008*” (H.R. 5590), that would amend section 1861(p)(1) of the Social Security Act to include dentists as defined under 1861(r)(2) and the introduction of companion legislation in the Senate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions on these issues or other topics relating to Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Thank you once again, {Senator/Representative/name of staffer}, for taking time to meet with us. I appreciate your continued commitment to quality healthcare for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Your Name