

Access to Oral Health Care Bills in the 110th Congress

Summary: The purpose of this document is to provide a snapshot of the various legislative proposals pertaining to access to oral health care that have been introduced. Most proposals seek to do similar things such as increase provider participation in SCHIP and Medicaid programs, particularly in underserved areas, or increase education and awareness of oral health disease.

Members need not spend a lot of time remembering the difference between the bills, but you should be aware of whether a member you are meeting with has signed onto one of these bills.

“Essential Oral Health Care Act of 2007” (H.R. 2472), introduced May 17, 2007 by Albert Wynn (D-Md.)

- **Focuses on improving provider participation in SCHIP and Medicaid.**
 - Provides for an increase in the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for states implementing requirements that ensure that children enrolled in the state Medicaid plan and/or SCHIP have access to oral health care services to the same extent as such services are available to the pediatric population of the state. States that increase the percentage of plan users and participating dentists will continue to receive the enhanced match;
 - Awards grants to up to six entities to participate as pilot sites for the Community Dental Health Coordinator model developed as a new mid-level allied dental professional who will work in underserved communities where residents have no or limited access to oral health care;
 - Awards grants to eligible entities to purchase portable or mobile dental equipment and pay for appropriate operational costs for the provision of free dental services to underserved populations;
 - Amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow a tax credit for the donation of qualified dental services to qualified low income individuals.

H.R. 2472 COSPONSORS (25)

[Rep Altmire, Jason](#) [PA-4] - 6/27/2007

[Rep Bishop, Sanford D., Jr.](#) [GA-2] - 6/27/2007

[Rep Clarke, Yvette D.](#) [NY-11] - 6/27/2007

[Rep Emerson, Jo Ann](#) [MO-8] - 10/17/2007

[Rep Goode, Virgil H., Jr.](#) [VA-5] - 6/27/2007

[Rep Hastings, Alcee L.](#) [FL-23] - 6/27/2007

[Rep Kilpatrick, Carolyn C.](#) [MI-13] - 5/24/2007

[Rep Norton, Eleanor Holmes](#) [DC] - 5/24/2007

[Rep Platts, Todd Russell](#) [PA-19] - 6/27/2007

[Rep Rothman, Steven R.](#) [NJ-9] - 12/6/2007

[Rep Souder, Mark E.](#) [IN-3] - 10/25/2007

[Rep Thompson, Bennie G.](#) [MS-2] - 6/27/2007

[Rep Wexler, Robert](#) [FL-19] - 6/27/2007

[Rep Barrow, John](#) [GA-12] - 2/7/2008

[Rep Castor, Kathy](#) [FL-11] - 6/27/2007

[Rep Ellison, Keith](#) [MN-5] - 6/27/2007

[Rep Fallin, Mary](#) [OK-5] - 6/27/2007

[Rep Hare, Phil](#) [IL-17] - 6/27/2007

[Rep Jones, Stephanie Tubbs](#) [OH-11] - 6/27/2007

[Rep Linder, John](#) [GA-7] - 10/25/2007

[Rep Payne, Donald M.](#) [NJ-10] - 6/27/2007

[Rep Ross, Mike](#) [AR-4] - 12/4/2007

[Rep Simpson, Michael K.](#) [ID-2] - 5/24/2007

[Rep Stupak, Bart](#) [MI-1] - 10/17/2007

[Rep Towns, Edolphus](#) [NY-10] - 6/27/2007

“Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2007” (H.R. 1781/S. 739), introduced by Reps. John Dingell (D-Mich.) and Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) on April 10, 2007 and Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-Nev.) on March 1, 2007.

- **Focuses on shoring up dental benefits in the SCHIP program.**
 - Provides a guaranteed dental benefit under SCHIP;
 - Allows states to provide wrap-around coverage under SCHIP for dental services to privately-insured children.
- **Focuses on grants and programs through various state and federal entities to improve access to dental services.**
 - Awards grants to states for their Medicaid and SCHIP programs for outreach and administrative case management and to improve reporting and collection of claims data.
 - Establishes a grant program for Federal Qualified Health Centers, local or county public health departments, Indian tribes or tribal organizations or CODA dental education programs to expand the availability of primary dental care services in dental health professional shortage areas or medically underserved areas.
 - Establishes demonstration projects through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Indian Health Service (HIS) to increase access to dental services for children in underserved areas.
 - Establishes an Oral Health Initiative to reduce disparities in oral health by improving inter-agency collaborations; encouraging federal and state programs to maximize their potential to address oral health; carrying out activities to encourage public-private partnerships to promote oral health and dental care, reduce disease burden in high risk populations through water fluoridation and dental sealant programs, and develop and implement school-based education programs on oral health literacy; and providing for outreach programs for families with children enrolled in Medicaid or SCHIP.
 - Requires development of prevention programs for populations at high risk for early childhood caries.
 - Revises the eligibility requirements for the school-based dental sealant program to include Indian tribes.
 - Awards grants to states and Indian tribes to improve their basic capacity to improve the oral health of children and their families.
 - Requires the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to collect data on dental, craniofacial, and oral health.
 - Establishes Chief Dental Officers within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the Medicaid and SCHIP programs, as well as Chief Dental Officers in HRSA and the CDC.
- **Focuses on Encouraging Provider Participation**
 - Awards grants to states to providing incentives, in addition to raising reimbursement rates, to increase provider participation.

- Revises Graduate Medical Education (GME) payments for dental residency programs.
- Authorizes retention bonuses for eligible dental officers of the Indian Health Service.

H.R. 1781 COSPONSORS (83)

[Rep Abercrombie, Neil](#) [HI-1] - 6/7/2007
[Rep Allen, Thomas H.](#) [ME-1] - 3/29/2007
[Rep Berry, Marion](#) [AR-1] - 5/17/2007
[Rep Blumenauer, Earl](#) [OR-3] - 5/9/2007
[Rep Boucher, Rick](#) [VA-9] - 6/7/2007
[Rep Capuano, Michael E.](#) [MA-8] - 7/19/2007
[Rep Chandler, Ben](#) [KY-6] - 5/24/2007
[Rep Cohen, Steve](#) [TN-9] - 6/26/2007
[Rep Cummings, Elijah E.](#) [MD-7] - 3/29/2007
[Rep DeGette, Diana](#) [CO-1] - 3/29/2007
[Rep Doggett, Lloyd](#) [TX-25] - 5/17/2007
[Rep Ellison, Keith](#) [MN-5] - 5/2/2007
[Rep Eshoo, Anna G.](#) [CA-14] - 3/29/2007
[Rep Fattah, Chaka](#) [PA-2] - 7/19/2007
[Rep Green, Gene](#) [TX-29] - 5/7/2007
[Rep Hastings, Alcee L.](#) [FL-23] - 5/2/2007
[Rep Hirono, Mazie K.](#) [HI-2] - 5/17/2007
[Rep Jackson-Lee, Sheila](#) [TX-18] - 5/7/2007
[Rep Kildee, Dale E.](#) [MI-5] - 8/2/2007
[Rep Kind, Ron](#) [WI-3] - 5/10/2007
[Rep Lewis, John](#) [GA-5] - 5/7/2007
[Rep McCollum, Betty](#) [MN-4] - 5/2/2007
[Rep McGovern, James P.](#) [MA-3] - 5/10/2007
[Rep McNulty, Michael R.](#) [NY-21] - 5/17/2007
[Rep Michaud, Michael H.](#) [ME-2] - 5/1/2007
[Rep Moore, Dennis](#) [KS-3] - 3/13/2008
[Rep Murphy, Patrick J.](#) [PA-8] - 7/19/2007
[Rep Pallone, Frank, Jr.](#) [NJ-6] - 3/29/2007
[Rep Peterson, Collin C.](#) [MN-7] - 6/7/2007
[Rep Platts, Todd Russell](#) [PA-19] - 7/19/2007
[Rep Rahall, Nick J., II](#) [WV-3] - 5/7/2007
[Rep Rangel, Charles B.](#) [NY-15] - 5/2/2007
[Rep Rothman, Steven R.](#) [NJ-9] - 5/10/2007
[Rep Sarbanes, John P.](#) [MD-3] - 5/1/2007
[Rep Scott, David](#) [GA-13] - 5/17/2007
[Rep Simpson, Michael K.](#) [ID-2] - 3/29/2007
[Rep Solis, Hilda L.](#) [CA-32] - 6/7/2007
[Rep Sutton, Betty](#) [OH-13] - 5/7/2007
[Rep Tierney, John F.](#) [MA-6] - 8/2/2007
[Rep Van Hollen, Chris](#) [MD-8] - 6/7/2007
[Rep Alexander, Rodney](#) [LA-5] - 5/1/2007
[Rep Baldwin, Tammy](#) [WI-2] - 5/9/2007
[Rep Bishop, Sanford D., Jr.](#) [GA-2] - 7/19/2007
[Rep Boren, Dan](#) [OK-2] - 8/2/2007
[Rep Capps, Lois](#) [CA-23] - 3/29/2007
[Rep Carson, Julia](#) [IN-7] - 11/1/2007
[Rep Clay, Wm. Lacy](#) [MO-1] - 5/10/2007
[Rep Cramer, Robert E. \(Bud\), Jr.](#) [AL-5] - 5/17/2007
[Rep Davis, Artur](#) [AL-7] - 4/19/2007
[Rep Delahunt, William D.](#) [MA-10] - 4/19/2007
[Rep Duncan, John J., Jr.](#) [TN-2] - 5/2/2007
[Rep Engel, Eliot L.](#) [NY-17] - 3/29/2007
[Rep Farr, Sam](#) [CA-17] - 5/7/2007
[Rep Gordon, Bart](#) [TN-6] - 11/1/2007
[Rep Grijalva, Raul M.](#) [AZ-7] - 5/10/2007
[Rep Hinojosa, Ruben](#) [TX-15] - 5/24/2007
[Rep Hoyer, Steny H.](#) [MD-5] - 3/29/2007
[Rep Kennedy, Patrick J.](#) [RI-1] - 5/9/2007
[Rep Kilpatrick, Carolyn C.](#) [MI-13] - 5/9/2007
[Rep Lampson, Nick](#) [TX-22] - 6/26/2007
[Rep Matsui, Doris O.](#) [CA-5] - 5/24/2007
[Rep McCotter, Thaddeus G.](#) [MI-11] - 5/7/2007
[Rep McHugh, John M.](#) [NY-23] - 5/10/2007
[Rep Meeks, Gregory W.](#) [NY-6] - 7/19/2007
[Rep Miller, George](#) [CA-7] - 5/17/2007
[Rep Moran, James P.](#) [VA-8] - 7/19/2007
[Rep Ortiz, Solomon P.](#) [TX-27] - 5/9/2007
[Rep Pastor, Ed](#) [AZ-4] - 5/17/2007
[Rep Pickering, Charles W. "Chip"](#) [MS-3] - 5/24/2007
[Rep Price, David E.](#) [NC-4] - 5/10/2007
[Rep Ramstad, Jim](#) [MN-3] - 5/2/2007
[Rep Ross, Mike](#) [AR-4] - 3/29/2007
[Rep Ruppertsberger, C. A. Dutch](#) [MD-2] - 11/1/2007
[Rep Schakowsky, Janice D.](#) [IL-9] - 3/29/2007
[Rep Shea-Porter, Carol](#) [NH-1] - 4/19/2007
[Rep Slaughter, Louise McIntosh](#) [NY-28] - 7/19/2007
[Rep Souder, Mark E.](#) [IN-3] - 11/1/2007
[Rep Thompson, Bennie G.](#) [MS-2] - 5/9/2007
[Rep Towns, Edolphus](#) [NY-10] - 3/29/2007
[Rep Waxman, Henry A.](#) [CA-30] - 3/29/2007

[Rep Wu, David](#) [OR-1] - 5/17/2007
[Rep Yarmuth, John A.](#) [KY-3] - 5/2/2007

[Rep Wynn, Albert Russell](#) [MD-4] - 3/29/2007

S. 739 COSPONSORS (15)

[Sen Akaka, Daniel K.](#) [HI] - 6/14/2007

[Sen Boxer, Barbara](#) [CA] - 3/13/2008

[Sen Cantwell, Maria](#) [WA] - 3/1/2007

[Sen Cochran, Thad](#) [MS] - 3/1/2007

[Sen Durbin, Richard](#) [IL] - 8/2/2007

[Sen Kerry, John F.](#) [MA] - 3/1/2007

[Sen Lincoln, Blanche L.](#) [AR] - 3/1/2007

[Sen Mikulski, Barbara A.](#) [MD] - 3/5/2007

[Sen Bayh, Evan](#) [IN] - 8/2/2007

[Sen Brown, Sherrod](#) [OH] - 5/14/2007

[Sen Cardin, Benjamin L.](#) [MD] - 3/1/2007

[Sen Collins, Susan M.](#) [ME] - 5/14/2007

[Sen Johnson, Tim](#) [SD] - 9/27/2007

[Sen Lautenberg, Frank R.](#) [NJ] - 5/14/2007

[Sen Menendez, Robert](#) [NJ] - 5/14/2007

“Deamonte’s Law” (H.R. 2371), introduced May 17, 2007 by Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.)

- **Focuses on expanding care at community health care centers and increasing the number of pediatric dentists.**
 - Authorizes grants to federally qualified health centers to expand and improve the provision of pediatric dental services to medically underserved populations by: recruiting dentists, pediatric dentists, or dentists with pediatric training to provide pediatric dental services to populations served by the center; purchasing or renting equipment for the provision of dental services; constructing and expanding physical space for the provision of dental services; or allowing contractual relationships between Federally qualified health centers and private dental providers to increase access to dental care for adults and children.
 - Authorizes grants to dental schools and hospitals with accredited training programs in pediatric dentistry to increase the number of individuals who pursue academic programs in pediatric dentistry.

H.R. 2371 COSPONSORS (29)

[Rep Allen, Thomas H.](#) [ME-1] - 3/14/2008

[Rep Burgess, Michael C.](#) [TX-26] - 3/6/2008

[Rep Clay, Wm. Lacy](#) [MO-1] - 3/14/2008

[Rep Fattah, Chaka](#) [PA-2] - 7/17/2007

[Rep Grijalva, Raul M.](#) [AZ-7] - 5/21/2007

[Rep Holden, Tim](#) [PA-17] - 3/14/2008

[Rep Kucinich, Dennis J.](#) [OH-10] - 5/17/2007

[Rep Markey, Edward J.](#) [MA-7] - 3/6/2008

[Rep Miller, George](#) [CA-7] - 5/21/2007

[Rep Pastor, Ed](#) [AZ-4] - 5/24/2007

[Rep Sarbanes, John P.](#) [MD-3] - 8/3/2007

[Rep Serrano, Jose E.](#) [NY-16] - 5/23/2007

[Rep Snyder, Vic](#) [AR-2] - 6/5/2007

[Rep Tierney, John F.](#) [MA-6] - 7/25/2007

[Rep Woolsey, Lynn C.](#) [CA-6] - 6/20/2007

[Rep Brady, Robert A.](#) [PA-1] - 6/20/2007

[Rep Capps, Lois](#) [CA-23] - 6/5/2007

[Rep Cohen, Steve](#) [TN-9] - 5/21/2007

[Rep Filner, Bob](#) [CA-51] - 5/24/2007

[Rep Hinojosa, Ruben](#) [TX-15] - 7/17/2007

[Rep Jackson-Lee, Sheila](#) [TX-18] - 6/5/2007

[Rep Lowey, Nita M.](#) [NY-18] - 9/24/2007

[Rep McCollum, Betty](#) [MN-4] - 5/21/2007

[Rep Moran, James P.](#) [VA-8] - 7/25/2007

[Rep Payne, Donald M.](#) [NJ-10] - 5/21/2007

[Rep Schakowsky, Janice D.](#) [IL-9] - 6/25/2007

[Rep Shea-Porter, Carol](#) [NH-1] - 7/17/2007

[Rep Souder, Mark E.](#) [IN-3] - 10/29/2007

[Rep Waxman, Henry A.](#) [CA-30] - 5/17/2007

“Deamonte Driver Dental Care Access Improvement Act of 2008” (H.R. 5549/S. 2723), introduced March 6, 2008 by Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.)

- **Focuses on expanding the available pool of dental providers to treat SCHIP and Medicaid recipients**
 - Provides grants to schools of dentistry and hospitals to increase # of individuals who pursue academic programs in pediatric dentistry.
 - Provides grants to evaluate one or more distinct allied dental professional models.
 - Provides grants for a pilot program to improve dental care at community health care centers by allowing funds to be used for recruiting dentists, pediatric dentists and dental hygienists as well as for mobile dentistry and tele-dentistry.
 - Calls for a study and report to Congress on the extent to which payment rates for dental services provided to individuals under SCHIP or Medicaid programs are: comparable to payment rates established for private insurers; adequate to compensate providers for the actual cost of providing such services; and in the case of state Medicaid plans, are sufficient to enlist enough providers in the program that care and services available to Medicaid recipients are at least to the extent of care and services available to the general population in the geographic area.
 - Provides for a tax credit of up to \$5,000 for dentists to treat Medicaid, SCHIP or uninsured patients.
- **Focuses on programs to encourage oral health awareness**
 - Provides grants to public or private entities to develop plans to prevent and manage childhood dental disease.
 - Provides for a CDC public education and awareness campaign on the importance of children’s dental health.
 - Requires the HHS Secretary to coordinate with relevant gov’t agencies to ensure the inclusion of dental health prevention promotion activities with existing prenatal and maternal child health programs.
- **Focuses on Measurable Outcomes**
 - Requires states to report annually to the federal government details on children’s access to dental care under their Medicaid and SCHIP plans.

H.R. 5549 COSPONSORS (1) [Rep Wynn, Albert Russell](#) [MD-4] - 3/14/2008

S. 2327 COSPONSORS (1) [Sen Cochran, Thad](#) [MS] - 3/6/2008