

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons:  
The experts in face, mouth and  
jaw surgery®



## American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

9700 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.  
Rosemont, IL 60018-5701

847-678-6200  
800-822-6637  
fax 847-678-6286

AAOMS.org

Paul J. Schwartz, DMD  
President

Karin Wittich, CAE  
Executive Director

April 17, 2023

The Honorable Mike Simpson, DMD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2084 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson:

On behalf of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), which represents more 9,000 oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) in the United States, thank you for introducing HR 1422, the Strengthening Medicaid Incentives for Licensees Enrolled in Dental (SMILED) Act.

As dental specialists, we are well aware that administrative burdens often prevent dentists from participating in the Medicaid program. Without a strong network of dentists, Medicaid patients may struggle to find a provider who can provide care in a reasonable timeframe. This can have a ripple effect on our nation's healthcare system when patients with serious, untreated dental needs end up in the already overcrowded and overburdened hospital emergency departments.

The SMILED Act would reduce administrative burdens by simplifying the credentialing process to decrease the amount of time it takes to become Medicaid providers. More specifically, the bill would encourage states to use an integrated system to minimize paperwork and complete the credentialing process within 90 days.

Additionally, HR 1422 would reduce unfair Medicaid audits by requiring that they be performed by a dentist from the same specialty and be based on clinical practice guidelines from dental organizations.

Thank you for your leadership on the SMILED Act. AAOMS welcomes the opportunity to work with you to advance this important legislation. Please contact Jeanne Tuerk, AAOMS Director of Government Affairs, at 800- 822-6637, ext. 4321, or [jtuerk@aaoms.org](mailto:jtuerk@aaoms.org).

Sincerely,

Paul J. Schwartz, DMD  
AAOMS President