

March 23, 2021

The Honorable Ben Cardin
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cardin and Stabenow:

The undersigned dental organizations thank you for introducing S. 448, the *Ensuring Kids Have Access to Medically Necessary Dental Care Act*. As you know, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides health coverage to nearly 10 million children nationwide, through both Medicaid and separate CHIP programs.

We understand that S. 448 amends CHIP to:

1. Eliminate annual and lifetime dollar limits for dental services provided under CHIP, including dental services provided to low-income pregnant women.
2. Require that CHIP wraparound dental coverage be the same as dental coverage for CHIP enrollees. This means that states would be required to provide dental-only coverage to children who would otherwise be eligible for CHIP but for the fact that they are covered under a group health plan or employer-sponsored insurance.

Our organizations strongly support this legislation and look forward to working with you to secure its passage. Your ongoing leadership and championing of oral health issues, such as improving CHIP, is making a tremendous difference to improve the nation's oral health.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Academy of General Dentistry
American Academy of Periodontology
American Association of Endodontists
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Women Dentists
American Dental Association
American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists
American Student Dental Association