



July 15, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy and Schumer:

The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), the professional organization that represents more than 9,000 oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) in the United States, recognizes and appreciates your continued work to provide relief to those adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Your recent efforts to extend and provide flexibility to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), in particular, have been invaluable to our members in small practices.

As Congress considers the next COVID-19 relief measure, AAOMS asks that you consider the following recommendations to support OMSs, our staff and patients:

- Support increased production of personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure all healthcare providers – including OMSs – have access to necessary protective equipment, such as N95 masks, gloves and gowns, when delivering patient care during the pandemic. OMSs often perform aerosol-generating procedures, and PPE is essential in these instances<sup>1</sup>.
- Help financially stressed OMS offices offset the cost of providing enhanced infection control safeguards. Specifically, we support the Small Business PPE Tax Credit Act (HR 7216), bipartisan legislation that would provide a \$25,000 annual tax credit for small businesses, including OMS practices, to help cover the costs of PPE and additional infection control protections.
- Extend immunity protection to all healthcare providers delivering care during the extraordinary conditions created by the pandemic. AAOMS supports the “Coronavirus Provider Protection Act” (HR 7059), which provides liability protection for health care providers for damages with respect to any harm caused by any act or omission in the course of arranging for or providing health care services during the COVID-19 public health emergency period. It would exclude instances

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<sup>1</sup> [CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response](#), April 2020

of gross negligence. Many OMSs are also small business owners. As such, they share concerns with other employers about the risk of possible transmission between employees and patients that may result in the potential for lawsuits if claims are made the disease was contracted on their premise despite lack of adequate and precise tracing. AAOMS supports legislation to shield businesses from lawsuits if they follow appropriate infection control recommendations or guidelines.

- Provide additional federal investment in research to advance rapid point-of-service tests and ensure tests are widely available to all healthcare providers.
- Expand student loan relief beyond what was provided in the CARES Act.
- Allow 501(c)(6) organizations to apply for PPP loans so that non-profit professional associations, such as AAOMS, can continue to provide quality educational resources to their members.
- Should language to prevent surprise billing instances be included as part of a COVID-19 package, incorporate the House Ways and Means Committee proposal – the Consumer Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills Act (HR 5826). This legislation provides a balanced approach to prevent patients from being unfairly surprised by an out-of-network bill while ensuring that providers have the opportunity to be reimbursed at a fair and reasonable rate.

On behalf of AAOMS, thank you for your consideration and leadership during this difficult time. For questions or additional information, please contact Jeanne Tuerk, manager of government affairs at 800-822-6637, ext. 4321 or [jtuerk@aaoms.org](mailto:jtuerk@aaoms.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor L. Nannini DDS FACS". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Victor L. Nannini, DDS, FACS  
AAOMS President