



American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

Douglas W. Fain, DDS, MD, FACS
President

Scott Farrell, MBA, CPA
Executive Director

January 19, 2017

The Honorable Paul Gosar, DDS
U.S. House of Representatives
504 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gosar:

On behalf of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), I thank you for continuing to take the lead on the important issue of antitrust reform in the health insurance marketplace. The AAOMS firmly supports your introduction of the bill “Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act of 2017” (H.R. 372). We particularly appreciate the inclusive language in H.R. 372’s definition of “the business of health insurance,” as it is the only anti-trust related legislation in Congress that specifies dental insurers as health insurance companies.

The health insurance industry’s exemption from federal antitrust laws, as provided by the McCarran Ferguson Act in 1945, has helped produce a largely anticompetitive health insurance market in an otherwise competitive economy where all other industries are subject to antitrust guidelines. We believe if health insurance companies were required to follow all federal antitrust laws there would very likely be an increase in health plans competing more aggressively for purchasers, which would result in policies with lower premiums yet robust benefits. As oral and maxillofacial surgeons, we think it is essential that consumers enjoy access to the innovative treatments and procedures available in the healthcare marketplace; just as they do in any environment that competes for their business.

Passage of the “Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act” is an important step toward increased competition in the health insurance arena. The AAOMS endorses this measure and looks forward to working with you and your staff to advance H.R. 372 through the legislative process. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jeanne Tuerk at the AAOMS Governmental Affairs Department at 800/822-6637 ext. 4321 or jtuerk@aaoms.org.

Sincerely,

Douglas W. Fain, DDS, MD, FACS
President