



American Association of Oral  
and Maxillofacial Surgeons

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Larry J. Moore, DDS, MS  
President

Robert C. Rinaldi, PhD, CAE  
Executive Director

July 5, 2011

The Honorable Erik Paulsen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
127 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Paulsen:

The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), the professional association representing more than 9,000 oral and maxillofacial surgeons in the United States, is delighted that, due largely to your tireless efforts, the elimination of another burdensome health care restriction is gaining significant bipartisan traction in Congress.

We appreciate your introduction of the “Patients' Freedom to Choose Act” (H.R. 605), which would repeal the provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that limits employee salary contributions to Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs).

In the current health care environment, hundreds of thousands of Americans – many of whom have middle-class incomes and are without access to dental insurance – rely on FSAs to cover out-of-pocket dental care costs. Many dental procedures, including dental implants, which are provided by oral and maxillofacial surgeons and have a better long-term success rate when compared to other less costly teeth replacement treatments, can exceed the \$2,500 annual contribution limit established under the ACA.

The current FSA provision in the ACA will force consumers to make uncomfortable choices about medically necessary treatments provided by our members, such as removal of wisdom teeth for their children or dental implants, if they know their FSA dollars will barely cover their out-of-pocket dental care costs.

Passage of the “Patients' Freedom to Choose Act” is an important step toward allowing more Americans the ability to receive necessary dental care at a time when out-of-pocket costs for health care have never been higher. The AAOMS endorses this measure, and we look forward to working with you and your staff to advance H.R. 605 through the legislative process. Please contact Mr. Adam Brenman of the AAOMS Governmental Affairs Department at 847/678-6200 or [abrenman@aaoms.org](mailto:abrenman@aaoms.org) for questions or additional information.

Sincerely,

Larry J. Moore, DDS, MS  
President