

SUPPORT THE HEALTH OF AMERICA'S FAMILIES

COSPONSOR THE RAISE ACT OF 2017

**RESPONSIBLE ADDITIONS AND INCREASES TO SUSTAIN EMPLOYEE (RAISE) HEALTH BENEFITS ACT
OF 2017**

February 16, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
341 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hatch, Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Wyden, and Ranking Member Neal:

As Congress begins to consider potential reforms to healthcare and insurance policies, the undersigned medical associations write to encourage your support for the Responsible Additions and Increases to Sustain Employee (RAISE) Health Benefits Act of 2017.

As you know, flexible spending accounts (FSAs) allow consumers to set aside pretax dollars to pay for healthcare services and items that are not covered by insurance - such as vision and dental services, doctor copayments, prescription drugs, and medical supplies. FSAs allow families to efficiently save money for medical care, encourage active engagement in healthcare decision-making, and incentivize informed consumers of healthcare services.

However, after years of small legislative and regulatory adjustments, FSAs suffer from two current restrictions that do not make sense. First, the current "use-it-or-lose-it" rule restricts families from carrying over the full balance in these savings accounts from one year to the next. This makes it impossible for some families to save up for long-term medical needs that are predictable and affordable with a savings plan that extends past one calendar year. Second, the current arbitrary cap of \$2,600 on contributions restricts families from saving funds for more expensive medical costs. It also unfairly restricts larger families' savings per person as compared to smaller families and hinders families from making individualized choices for their healthcare needs.

The RAISE Health Benefits Act repeals the “use-it-or-lose-it” rule for FSAs, allowing families to build balances over several years. The bill also significantly expands the current FSA annual contribution cap to \$5,000 and allows families with more than two dependents to save an additional \$500 a year for each additional dependent. Families that need more resources can thus save towards these costs and larger families will not be disadvantaged from savings for their potentially larger healthcare needs. Passage of the RAISE Health Benefits Act would adjust current illogical restrictions and lead to more effective spending on medical care and better health for many Americans.

We recognize there are many perspectives on the right way forward on healthcare issues. Giving families more flexibility in planning for their healthcare with effective tools to save and spend their money just makes sense. We urge you to support the RAISE Health Benefits Act. Should you have any questions, please contact Kevin O’Neill at Kevin.ONeill@apks.com or (202) 942.6563.

Sincerely,

American Association of Orthodontists
American Dental Association
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Endodontists
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Academy of General Dentistry
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
American Association of Women Dentists
American Association of Periodontology
National Dental Association