

January 14, 2010

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Chairman  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman:

As you work to reconcile the Affordable Health Care for America Act (AHCAA) passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on November 7, 2009 with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) passed by the Senate on December 24, 2009, we urge you to adopt sections 2555 and 2556 that address the need to recognize dentists as emergency care responders into final legislation.

Dentists and allied dental personnel are willing to support the medical and public health respond to disasters and, with minimal additional training, could readily fit into an all-hazards emergency health care paradigm. Dentists receive a sound general medical background during their professional education. Most dental facilities can also be used as outpatient surgery centers and pharmaceutical storage and distribution sites for overwhelmed hospital facilities.

Sections 2555 and 2556 of the House health care reform bill incorporate dentistry by name into the federal disaster response framework. These sections will clarify that dentists can – and should – stand alongside physicians, nurses and other health professionals while providing for the medical and other health-related needs of disaster victims, especially when a community's basic medical infrastructure is overwhelmed or suddenly compromised.

Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions please contact Michael Brzica at [brzicam@ada.org](mailto:brzicam@ada.org) or (202) 898-2404.

Sincerely,

American Dental Association  
Academy of General Dentistry  
American Academy of Oral and  
Maxillofacial Pathology  
American Academy of Periodontology  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Dental Education Association  
American Association of Dental Boards  
American Association of Oral and  
Maxillofacial Surgeons  
Hispanic Dental Association  
Arkansas State Dental Association  
Arizona Dental Association  
California Dental Association  
Colorado Dental Association  
Illinois State Dental Society  
Indiana Dental Association  
Iowa Dental Association  
Michigan Dental Association  
Minnesota Dental Association

Missouri Dental Association  
Montana Dental Association  
Nebraska Dental Association  
Nevada Dental Association  
New Hampshire Dental Society  
New York State Dental Association  
North Carolina Dental Society  
Ohio Dental Association  
Oklahoma Dental Association  
Oregon Dental Association  
Pennsylvania Dental Association  
South Dakota Dental Association  
Texas Dental Association  
Utah Dental Association  
Vermont State Dental Society  
Virginia Dental Association  
Washington State Dental Association  
Wisconsin Dental Association  
Wyoming Dental Association

cc: Erika Smith  
Sarah Despres