

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

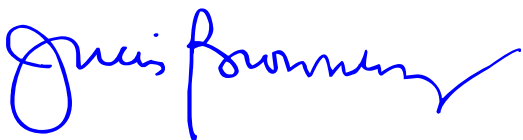
As you work to develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, we ask for your continued support for programs crucial to addressing the unmet oral health needs of America's children. Specifically, we urge continued funding for Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII pediatric dentistry training at no less than \$12 million, including support for dental faculty loan repayment grants, and robust funding for Section 748 primary care dental programs as a whole.

Pediatric dentists are crucial to meeting the unmet oral health needs of children, many of whom come from underserved populations. Dental decay is easily preventable, and yet remains a persistent chronic disease among many American children. Left untreated, decay can cause pain and infection that undermines eating, speaking, and learning during critical stages of childhood development. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that tooth decay affects 1 in 4 children under age five, half of children ages 6-11, and nearly 60 percent of adolescents ages 12-19 untreated decay is more than twice as likely for children in low-income families, compared to those in higher-income households.

HRSA Title VII programs are an important tool in meeting the unmet oral health needs of many of these families. - Continued funding for pediatric dentistry training programs helps more dental students enter the field prepared to address these needs by treating children covered by Medicaid and CHIP and practicing in underserved areas. Additionally, dental faculty repayment programs incentivize professionals to help train future practitioners to meet such needs.

We thank the Subcommittee for its support of these programs in past years, and urge continued funding in order to further stem the tide of preventable childhood dental disease.

Sincerely,



---

JULIA BROWNLEY  
Member of Congress

---

**HRSA Title VII Pediatric Dentistry Training, FY 2021**  
**List of Signatories**  
**March 13, 2020**

Cindy Axne  
Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Joyce Beatty  
Cheri Bustos  
G. K. Butterfield  
Tony Cárdenas  
André Carson  
Sean Casten  
David N. Cicilline  
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Steve Cohen  
Angie Craig  
Jason Crow  
Susan A. Davis  
Antonio Delgado  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Debbie Dingell  
Eliot L. Engel  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Adriano Espaillat  
Dwight Evans  
Abby Finkenauer  
Bill Foster  
Tulsi Gabbard  
Jimmy Gomez  
Denny Heck  
Jim Himes  
Hakeem Jeffries  
Ro Khanna  
Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Conor Lamb

John B. Larson  
Mike Levin  
Ted W. Lieu  
Lucy McBath  
Gwen Moore  
Stephanie Murphy  
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Tom O'Halleran  
Jimmy Panetta  
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Collin C. Peterson  
Chellie Pingree  
Stacey E. Plaskett  
Cedric L. Richmond  
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Bobby L. Rush  
Jan Schakowsky  
Bradley S. Schneider  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Brad Sherman  
Albio Sires  
Abigail D. Spanberger  
Jackie Speier  
Bennie G. Thompson  
Dina Titus  
Jeff Van Drew  
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Peter Welch  
Jennifer Wexton