

## **AAPD APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES ACHIEVED IN FY 2021 HOUSE REPORT: \$12 MILLION FOR PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR FAIR AND REASONABLE MEDICAID DENTAL AUDITS**

The U.S. House of Representatives is moving forward with a FY 2021 appropriations bill, H.R. 7617, which totals \$1.367 trillion in discretionary funding and consists of seven FY 2021 appropriations bills: Commerce-Justice-Science, Defense, Energy and Water Development, Financial Service and General Government, Homeland Security, **Labor-HHS-Education**, and Transportation-Housing and Urban Development.

The AAPD is pleased that our appropriations and report language priorities fared well in the House Appropriations Committee report related to Labor-HHS-Education, H. Report 116-450, that was approved by the subcommittee and full committee and released on July 15, 2020.<sup>1</sup> This success is due to the hard work of AAPD's Congressional Liaisons (Drs. Heber Simmons, Jr., Warren A. Brill, and Jade Miller), attendees at the AAPD's 2020 Pediatric Oral Health Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C., and our D.C. lobbying firm Hogan Lovells.

### **Support for \$12 million for Title VII Pediatric Dentistry, and Pediatric Dentistry Faculty Loan Repayment:**

#### *Oral Health Training*

*Oral Health Training and Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program.*—Within the total for Oral Health Training, the Committee includes not less than \$12,000,000 for General Dentistry Programs and **not less than \$12,000,000 for Pediatric Dentistry Programs**. The Committee directs HRSA to provide continuation funding for section 748 Dental Faculty Loan Program (DFLRP) grants initially awarded in fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018. The Committee continues to support **DFLRP awards** with a **preference for pediatric dentistry faculty** supervising dental students or residents and providing clinical services in dental clinics located in dental schools, hospitals, and community-based affiliate sites. (p. 45)

For a list of the latest Title VII grants awarded to pediatric dentistry residency programs, click here: [https://www.aapd.org/globalassets/media/advocacy/fy-2020\\_hrsa-announces-27-awards-for-postdoctoral-dental-training.pdf](https://www.aapd.org/globalassets/media/advocacy/fy-2020_hrsa-announces-27-awards-for-postdoctoral-dental-training.pdf)

### **Support for Greater Authority for the HRSA Chief Dental Officer:**

*Chief Dental Officer.*—The Committee is pleased that HRSA has restored the position of Chief Dental Officer (CDO) and looks forward to learning how the agency has **ensured that the CDO is functioning at an executive level authority** with resources and staff to oversee and lead all oral health programs and initiatives across HRSA. The Committee requests an update by February 2021 on how the CDO is serving as the agency representative with executive level authority on oral health issues to international,

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<sup>1</sup> For the complete report see: <https://www.congress.gov/116/crpt/hrpt450/CRPT-116hrpt450.pdf>

national, State and/or local government agencies, universities, and oral health stakeholder organizations. (p. 60)

**Support for Fair and Reasonable Medicaid Dental Audits:**

*Medicaid Dental Audits.*—The Committee raised concerns in House Report 116–62 that failure to use professional guidelines or established state Medicaid manual parameters in the auditing process can result in inaccurate and unreasonable Medicaid dental audits, negatively impacting dentist participation in the program and patient access to care. While State Medicaid agencies (SMA) have significant responsibility in managing provider audits, the Committee believes that as part of CMS oversight of the Medicaid program it is appropriate to issue guidance to SMAs concerning best practices in dental audits and offer training in such practices. The Committee urges CMS to develop such guidance for SMAs, in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and American Dental Association, and report to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this Act on steps taken to develop such guidance. (p. 168)

**Support for Filling the Chief Dental Officer Position at CMS:**

*Chief Dental Officer.*—The Committee is concerned that the Chief Dental Officer position at CMS has been vacant since October 2017, leaving a significant gap of clinical oral health expertise within CMS. Medicaid provides oral health services to millions of people across the country, including vulnerable populations such as children, pregnant women, and disabled adults. A licensed dentist clinician is an invaluable resource to CMS’s growing oral health strategy to expand access to care. The Committee urges CMS to move forward with filling this vacancy. (p. 162)

For more information about FY 2021 L-HHS-Education appropriations: C. Scott Litch, Esq., CAE, Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel (slitch@aapd.org).