

April 3, 2007

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell:

As organizations committed to the oral health of all children, we thank you for your leadership in addressing access to children's dental care through your Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2007. Your proposal provides the federal support and leadership needed to strengthen the dental care delivery system for children in the U.S.

Establishing a strong system of dental care for children is a cost-effective investment in their future health. Since dental caries, the disease that causes cavities remains the most prevalent chronic disease of U.S. children, improving dental coverage for low-income children, increasing access to preventive dental care, and supporting a well-trained workforce are necessary elements in any plan to improve the oral health of children. The Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2007 assures a dental benefit in the State Children's Health Insurance Program, strengthens public health infrastructure for dental care through state grants and provides incentives for increasing the workforce in underserved areas. We strongly endorse all these strategies.

Thank you for your commitment to the oral health of our nation's children. We look forward to working closely with you to enact this bill into law.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Association for Dental Research
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
Children's Dental Health Project
Hispanic Dental Association
National Dental Association