

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, HHS, Education  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, HHS, Education  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515


Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you work to develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill, we ask for your continued support for programs crucial to addressing the unmet oral health needs of America's children. Dental decay is the most common chronic childhood disease in the United States, even though it is easily preventable. In addition, children from low income families have three to five times the level of untreated dental disease compared to their more affluent peers. Children with chronic dental pain face difficulty in school and in their everyday lives, negatively impacting their development for years to come.

Pediatric dentists are crucial to meeting the nation's health workforce needs. We urge the Subcommittee to include funding for Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII pediatric dentistry training at no less than \$12 million, including support for HRSA to continue funding grant opportunities for dental faculty loan repayment consistent with FY 2017 award criteria. We also urge continued robust funding for the overall primary care dental cluster (Section 748) and related dental programs.

This modest investment helps ensure highly-trained pediatric dentists can treat underserved populations and practice in underserved areas, thereby helping to stem the tide of early childhood dental disease. We thank the Committee for supporting this funding in the past, and request continued support in FY 2019.

Sincerely,



---

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



---

Gregg Harper  
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Tim Walz  
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



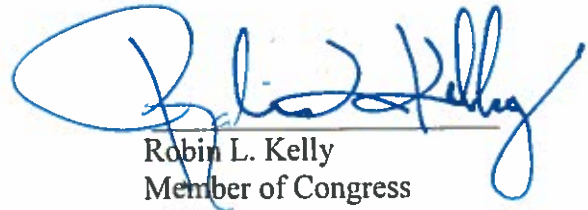
Collin Peterson  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



Daniel W. Lipinski  
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



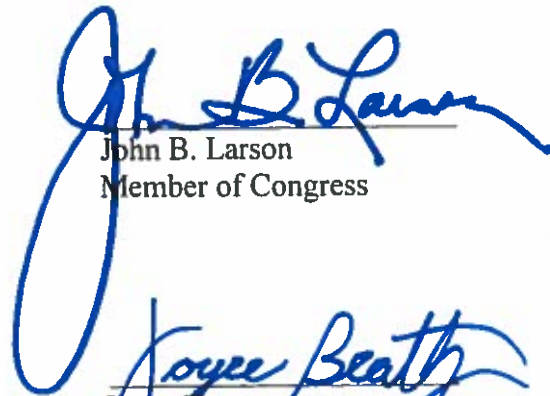
Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



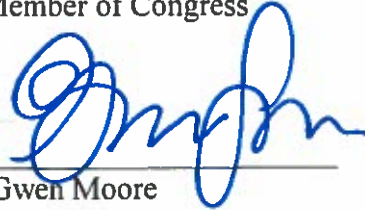
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne Jr.  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



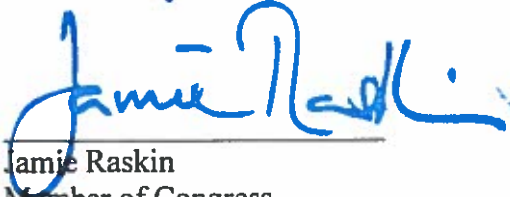
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty  
Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez  
Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

Denny Heck  
Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke  
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas  
Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

Jim Himes  
Jim Himes  
Member of Congress

David Scott  
David Scott  
Member of Congress

Sander Levin  
Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_