

May 22, 2020

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Rubio, Cardin, Collins, and Shaheen:

On behalf of the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) and its 39,000 members, I would like to thank you for your efforts to support small businesses dealing with the impacts of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) by introducing S.3833, the *Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act*. We strongly support S.3833 and its provisions to make the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) created under the CARES Act more accessible and practical for small businesses as they tailor loans they receive to their specific operational needs.

PPP loans have been a lifeline for dentists during this crisis, as many dental practices have been closed for all but emergency care and states are still in the preliminary stages of reopening. April employment data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics on May 8, 2020, found that dental offices have suffered the highest amount of job losses within the health care industry, with a 47.5% decline in employment between March and April, amounting to 503,000 jobs¹. With patient volumes still at drastically low levels and dental staff apprehensive about returning to workplaces classified in the very high exposure risk category² by OSHA, many owner-dentists will be unable to fully re-staff in time to comply with the current PPP loan forgiveness deadlines dictated under the CARES Act.

AGD greatly appreciates the provisions in S.3833 that extend the PPP loan forgiveness coverage period up to 16 weeks, as well as the allowance for the cost of personal protective equipment (PPE) and adaptive investments to be considered covered expenses. These commonsense changes will be vital for the dental practices that have suffered an enormous financial impact during the crisis. Many dentists are still navigating difficult decisions to support their patients, staff, and small businesses while weighing the uncertainties associated with reopening and providing care.

¹ THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION — APRIL 2020, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2020
(<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf>)

² Occupational Safety and Health Administration, [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#), March 2020.



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AGD and its members are thankful for the work Congress has already accomplished in responding to COVID-19 and providing relief for Americans. We look forward to continuing to work with you during this critical time to protect the health of our nation and stand ready to help advance the *Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act* in Congress. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Daniel J. Buksa, JD, Associate Executive Director of Public Affairs, by phone at (312) 440-4328 or via email at daniel.buksa@agd.org to let us know how we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Connie L. White, D.D.S., FAGD'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'C' at the beginning.

Connie White, D.D.S., FAGD
President
Academy of General Dentistry