

Capitol Hill Update

ADHA Federal Advocacy Efforts—Senate Appropriations Bill Released

The Senate Appropriations Committee report to accompany S. 1284, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies was completed earlier this year. This funding bill and its accompanying committee report reflect a number of provisions on which ADHA has advocated.

Particularly reflective of ADHA work is the language directing the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to work with the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS) on the "evaluation of additional models for expanding access to oral health care," which the Committee believes should include "efforts under State law to deploy and evaluate new provider types".

The legislation and report include \$32.654 million for "Training in Oral Health". The report specifically notes that the funds "may be used to expand training in general dentistry, pediatric dentistry, public health dentistry, dental hygiene, and other oral health access programs". These funds could be used by HRSA to support the dental workforce programs, among other activities.

The Committee includes funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s efforts relating to Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. The Committee recommends \$15 million for oral health activities, which includes funding for States to strengthen their capacities to assess the prevalence of oral diseases and to target resources and interventions, such as community prevention and school-linked sealant programs, to the underserved.

Senate Resolution 182 Signed into Law

On Friday, June 21, 2013, the United States Senate unanimously approved Senate Resolution 182 congratulating the American Dental Hygienists' Association on the 100th anniversary of the profession of dental hygiene and commending its work to improve the oral health of the people of the United States. The resolution was sponsored by Sen. Cardin (MD), Sen. Collins (ME), Sen. King (ME), Sen. Durbin (IL), Senator Franken (MN), Sen. Harkin (IA) and Sen. Brown (OH).

Oral Health Legislation Re-Introduced

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) re-introduced S. 1522/H.R. 3120, the Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2013. This bill will focus on the cost of dental services in America and calls attention to the lack of access to affordable dental care for millions of Americans. It's a follow-up to legislation previously introduced regarding the need to expand access to dental services. ADHA continues to be a resource for Senator Sanders and we are pleased that he is once again elevating the discussion on oral health needs across the country.

If you have any questions about ADHA's federal or state efforts, please contact gov.affairs@adha.net.