

December 17, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chairman, Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Chairman Wyden:

As the Senate continues to craft its version of the Build Back Better legislation, you are weighing numerous policies to improve the lives of Americans as the country continues its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The undersigned organizations strongly urge you to include a policy that would improve oral health in America: including guaranteed comprehensive adult dental coverage as a mandatory benefit for all state Medicaid programs. Poor oral health is not confined to the mouth; it impacts overall health and limits the ability of Americans to perform in the workforce. For this reason, a lack of Medicaid dental health coverage is a significant impediment to a sustained, equitable economic recovery.

economic potential, and dragging down the economy as a whole. In addition, research suggests that the U.S. loses more than \$45 billion each year in productivity due to untreated dental disease. Expanding Medicaid adult dental coverage, therefore, would help improve employability and help reduce associated racial inequities in the job market.

**Expanding oral health coverage is cost-effective and will support better overall health.**

American Public Health Association Oral Health Section  
APHA Oral Health Section  
Apple Tree Dental  
Asian Resources, Inc  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors  
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors  
Augusta Regional Dental Clinic  
Black AIDS Institute  
C.A.R.E. Clinic  
California Dental Association  
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network  
CareQuest Institute for Oral Health  
Center for Medicare Advocacy  
Choice in Aging  
Community Access National Network (CANN)  
Community Catalyst, Inc.  
Dental Trade Alliance  
DentaQuest  
Department of Social Services, Health Services, Integrated Care  
Douglas County Early Childhood Initiative  
Early Childhood Dental Network  
Eastern Shore Rural Health System  
Erie Family Health Centers  
Families USA

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Heartland Alliance  
Hennepin Healthcare  
Hispanic Dental Association  
HIV Dental Alliance  
Justice in Aging  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California

National Dental Association  
National Dental Hygienists' Association  
National Kidney Foundation  
National Rural Health Association  
Normandale Community College Dental Hygiene Program  
Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN, Inc.)  
Piedmont Regional Dental Clinic, Inc.  
PlusInc  
Project Accessible Oral Health  
Public Health Dental