

June 30, 2021

The Honorable Brian Babin, DDS  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2236 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chrissy Houlahan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1218 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Babin and Houlahan:

On behalf of our organizations, we thank you for reintroducing the “Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act” (HR 4122) that, if passed, will allow borrowers to qualify for interest-free deferment on their student loans while serving in a medical or dental internship or residency program.

As you are aware, the cost of graduate-level medical and dental education is substantial for the vast majority of students. Further, those who undertake several years of residency with very low pay are often unable to begin repaying student debt immediately. As a result, they qualify to have their payments halted during residency through deferment or forbearance processes, but they continue to accrue interest that is added to their balance.

Passage of the “REDI Act” is an important part of student loan repayment reform. This bill would prevent medical and dental residents from being penalized during residency and save them thousands of dollars in interest. Providing interest accrual relief during residency also would make the concepts of opening practices in underserved areas or entering faculty or research more attractive and affordable to residents.

Thank you again for your support of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry  
American Academy of Dental Group Practice  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
American Academy of Periodontology  
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Association of Endodontists  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
American Association of Orthodontists  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons

American College of Prosthodontists  
American College of Rheumatology  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Student Dental Association  
National Dental Association  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons