

April 13, 2007

Representative Nydia M. Velázquez
Chairwoman, House Small Business Committee
2360 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2104

Dear Madame Chair:

The undersigned organizations write to express our support for H.R. 1332, the Small Business Lending Improvements Act of 2007, which seeks to encourage medical and dental professionals into designated shortage areas by providing special loan incentives (Section 104). We believe that passage of this bill will complement efforts already underway by local, state and federal agencies.

Over 60 million people currently live in underserved areas of the nation. Safety net facilities such as dental and medical schools, community-based clinics, migrant and rural health centers, school-based or school-linked programs, and mobile vans represent important access points for those who have difficulty obtaining care through the private sector. Unfortunately, they are not enough. That is why this bill is so important – it will support and strengthen these programs by encouraging private health care providers into these areas.

H.R. 1332 is an important first step in creating appropriate financial incentives that specifically encourage dentists, physicians and other healthcare providers to become established in underserved areas.

We look forward to working with you to secure its passage.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry
Alliance of the American Dental Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Periodontology
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthodontists
American College of Physicians
American College of Prosthodontists
American College of Radiology
American Dental Association
American Student Dental Association