



560 W. Lake St. 312.440.4300
Sixth Floor Fax: 312.440.0559
Chicago, IL USA Toll-free: 888.243.3368
60661-6600 agd.org

September 8, 2020

The Honorable Filemon Vela
United States House of Representatives
307 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lance Gooden
United States House of Representatives
425 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Vela and Gooden:

On behalf of the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) and its 39,000 members, I would like to thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R.7671, the *Small Business Comeback Act*. We strongly support H.R.7671 and its establishment of a Small Business Recovery Fund to help save American businesses during this difficult time.

As you know, many dental practices closed entirely or for all but emergency services during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, many dentists are reopening their offices to provide oral health care in the communities they serve.

It is important that dentists are able to continue the delivery of all services, as all oral health care is essential, and procedures can become emergent if delayed too long. However, to deliver care while ensuring the safest environments, dental practices are incurring substantial costs to implement extensive infection control measures. The costs associated with adopting these health and safety measures are having an enormous financial impact on these small business dental practices.

We applaud the introduction of H.R.7671 to offer a flexible federal funding mechanism that assists with COVID-19-related expenses. The creation of a Recovery Fund will allow for dental practices to adapt to new regulations and requirements, retain and rehire staff, pay rent and pay their state and local taxes – in turn, helping these small businesses get back up and running.

AGD and its members are thankful for the work Congress has already done 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 *Small Business Comeback Act*. If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out by contacting Daniel J. Buksa, JD, AGD Associate Executive Director of Public Affairs, by phone at (312) 440-4328 or via email at daniel.buksa@agd.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Connie L. White, D.D.S., FAGD'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

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