

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