

July 24, 2024

The Honorable Jeff Van Drew
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brad Schneider
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nicole Malliotakis
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Van Drew, Schneider, Malliotakis and Panetta,

The Health Choices Coalition – comprised of physicians, dentists, patients, consumers, pharmacists, retailers, manufacturers, pharmacies, insurers, small businesses, and large employers – applauds your leadership on the recent introduction of H.R. 8599, the Oral Health Products Inclusion Act.

As American families search for ways to take a more proactive approach toward prioritizing their personal health and wellness, increasing access to preventative health options has never been more important, especially amidst an overburdened U.S. healthcare system.

Poor oral hygiene and oral disease may contribute to some of the most common health conditions and complications among American adults. In fact, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers tooth decay to be a common chronic disease, and nearly half of all Americans over the age of 30 show some signs of gum diseases that can lead to much more serious conditions if left untreated, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, arthritis, Alzheimer's, COPD, liver disease, and more.

These problems are worse among lower-income, less-educated, and more rural communities. Recent research by the National Dental Association (NDA) and the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA) revealed that a large percentage of individuals in disadvantaged communities seek emergency or urgent oral care from non-dentists at least once per year. In the U.S., children lose 34 million hours of school annually overall due to unplanned (emergency) dental care, and for adults, untreated oral diseases [result](#) in more than \$45 billion in lost work productivity.

As the self-care industry continues to look for ways to relieve cost burdens on American families by making beneficial over-the-counter (OTC) consumer healthcare products more accessible, we are appreciative of your common-sense, bipartisan approach to help alleviate undue burdens associated with long-term medical expenses. The Oral Health Products Inclusion Act will empower Americans to improve their oral health by increasing access to everyday products such as toothbrushes, water flossers, anti-cavity toothpaste, rinses, and similar oral care products by

allowing them to be purchased with Flexible Spending Account (FSA) and Health Savings Account (HSA) funds as “qualified medical expenses.”

Through the passage of the [CARES Act](#) in 2020, Congress secured a strong bipartisan victory for consumers by reinstating their ability to purchase OTC products, and for the first time, feminine care products, using FSA-HSA funds. The Oral Health Products Inclusion Act builds upon this momentum by expanding the same eligibility to certain OTC oral care products for the [60 million Americans](#) from all income levels who use these accounts as a resource to prioritize healthcare expenses for themselves and their family.

Consumers want the ability to choose how to best use their hard-earned money to stay healthy and practice self-care. Expanding FSA-HSA eligibility to everyday oral health essentials is a solution that will deliver the reforms and flexibility today’s consumers are asking for and deserve. This legislation is supported by CHPA, the American Dental Association (ADA), and the NDA, which each recognize the important role preventative self-care plays in the reduction of long-term healthcare costs.

The Health Choices Coalition is committed to doing all we can to help support the efforts to see H.R. 8599 signed into law to help improve consumers’ access to beneficial over-the-counter oral health products.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry
American Association of Endodontists
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Dental Association
Association of State & Territorial Dental Directors
Colgate-Palmolive Company
Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA)
FMI – The Food Industry Association
Haleon
Health-E Commerce
Healthy Americas Foundation
Kenvue
Lornamead Inc.
National Alliance for Hispanic Health
National Dental Association
Procter & Gamble
Sanofi Consumer Healthcare
Sjögren's Foundation