

March 23, 2011

The Honorable Tom Price
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Price:

The American Dental Association (ADA), which represents over 156,000 dentists in the United States, enthusiastically supports the “Medical Practice Freedom Act of 2011” (H.R. 969). The bill prohibits the Secretary of Health and Human Services and any state from requiring any health care provider to participate in any health plan as a condition of licensure. The ADA understands “health plan” is broadly defined and “health care provider” includes dentists, as they are required to be licensed to practice dentistry.

The ADA believes that all practitioners should retain the right to make decisions on a case-by-case basis regarding participation in health plans without government coercion as a fundamental right in our country’s free market system. On the other hand, the ADA fully supports financial incentives or other inducements to encourage practitioners to participate in a given plan or to, for example, locate a practice in an underserved area when there is an inadequate distribution of providers.

Thank you, Dr. Price, for introducing an important piece of legislation that will help ensure the continued viability of the private sector health care system, including the dental delivery system that has served the vast majority of Americans very well.

Please contact Mr. Thomas Spangler at (202) 789-5179 or spangler@ada.org in the ADA’s Washington, D.C. office with any questions.

Sincerely,



Raymond Gist, D.D.S.
President



Kathleen T. O'Loughlin, D.M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director

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