

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Support Children's Dental Care
Cosponsor the Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2007
H.R. 1781

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in cosponsoring H.R. 1781, the Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2007. This legislation would improve access and delivery of dental care for all children.

Dental health is critical to overall health. While many children in the United States benefit from routine preventive dental care, there are still numerous additional children who needlessly suffer from avoidable dental disease. As a result, tooth decay continues as the single most common chronic disease of childhood, causing untold misery for children and their families.

Early intervention prevents dental disease and reduces costs. By simply visiting the dentist before their first birthday, low-income children reduce their average dental-related costs by almost 40 percent (\$263 compared to \$447) over a five-year period. These children are also less likely to require subsequent restorative or emergency room visits.

The Children's Dental Health Improvement Act would establish a Federal guarantee for dental coverage for children covered under the State Children's Health Improvement Program (SCHIP) to improve access to oral health care. In addition, the bill provides grants to improve the provision of dental services through community health centers and public health departments and demonstration projects to improve access to care in underserved areas.

The list of leading dental organizations that have endorsed H.R. 1781 includes:

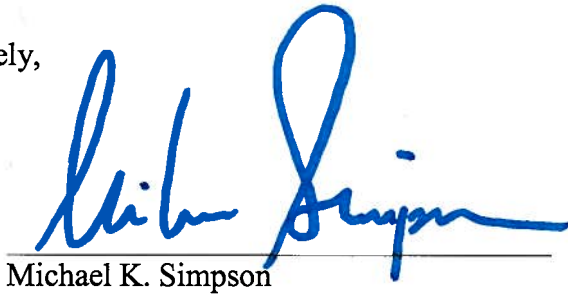
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Children's Dental Health Project
American Dental Hygienists' Association
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
Hispanic Dental Association
National Dental Association
Academy of General Dentistry
American Association for Dental Research

We hope you will join us in cosponsoring this important legislation. To become a cosponsor, please contact Christie Houlihan with the Committee on Energy and Commerce staff at extension 5-2927 or Megan Milam with Representative Simpson's office at extension 5-5531. If you have questions regarding the legislation, please contact Amy Hall with the Committee on Energy and Commerce staff at extension 5-2927 or Megan Milam.

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell



Michael K. Simpson