



March 13, 2019

The Honorable Brian Babin, DDS
U.S. House of Representatives
316 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Babin:

On behalf of our organizations, we thank you for introducing the “Resident Education Deferred Interest Act” (HR 1554) 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 a dentist, you are likely 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 “Resident Education Deferred Interest Act” is an important part of student loan repayment reform. This bill would save physicians and dentists in residency 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 Dermatology Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Periodontology
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Endodontists
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthodontists
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Association of Women Dentists
American College of Rheumatology
American Dental Association
American Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Student Dental Association
Society for Vascular Surgery
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons