

# Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2024

*This bill covers five main areas aimed at ending the dental crisis in America by expanding coverage, creating new access points, enhancing the workforce, improving education, and funding new research.*

**Coverage:** *This bill extends comprehensive dental health insurance to millions of Americans who do not have coverage today.*

- Extends comprehensive coverage to all Medicare, Medicaid, and VA beneficiaries
- Makes dental services an essential health benefit for adults under the ACA
- Allows States to be eligible for an enhanced FMAP (15% increase) for dental services under Medicaid if they meet requirements to address provider participation and patient utilization
- Requires public reporting of states' Medicaid dental benefits and utilization

**Access Points:** *This bill ensures that there are more places people can go to access a qualified oral health care professional to get the care they need.*

- Increases funding for oral health services for health clinics, such as community health centers
- Increases funding for school-based dental services
- Authorizes emergency department care coordination grants to enable individuals to receive dental care in clinics rather than in emergency department settings
- Authorizes funding for mobile and portable services and outreach to underserved populations
- Encourages the delivery of telehealth-enabled dental services

**Workforce:** *This bill uses multiple strategies to increase the number of oral health professionals who will work in communities with the greatest need.*

- Authorizes funding for additional National Health Service Corps scholarships and loan repayment to recruit and support oral health professionals to work in underserved communities
- Creates two oral health professional student loan programs, one through Veterans Affairs
- Authorizes additional funding for community-based dental residencies and dental student training
- Incentivizes higher reimbursement rates for dental services to encourage greater provider participation in Medicaid
- Creates new demo programs for the training and employment of alternative dental health care providers (Veterans Affairs, Bureau of Prisons, Indian Health Service)

**Education:** *This bill addresses the need to educate current and future oral health care providers to better serve vulnerable populations and to integrate oral health care into overall health care.*

- Authorizes additional funding for programs to educate non-dental health professionals about oral health to encourage the integration of oral health care into overall health care
- Requires that dental schools accepting any federal funding meet criteria designed to prepare students to meet the needs of diverse and underserved populations

**Research:** *This bill authorizes funding for research on prevention and disease management to improve oral health care delivery and the oral health status of our country.*

- Authorizes additional federal funding for oral health research and evaluation related to the care and needs of underserved and vulnerable populations