

August 11, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Floor Consideration of the *PREVENT HPV Cancers Act of 2021 (H.R.1550)*

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the Academy of General Dentistry's (AGD) 40,000 members and the AGD Foundation, we respectfully request that you consider permitting H.R.1550, the *Promoting Resources to Expand Vaccination, Education and New Treatments for (PREVENT) HPV Cancers Act of 2021*, to be brought to the House floor for a vote. We would also request that you urge your respective caucus and conference to support the bill's passage unanimously.

H.R.1550 was reported favorably out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee by a unanimous voice vote on July 21.

We strongly support this bipartisan legislation and its provisions to promote public awareness of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines, which can prevent HPV and cancers associated with HPV. The bill would also reauthorize and enhance Johanna's Law, an existing CDC program to prevent and increase awareness of all HPV-associated cancers.

General dentists are the first line of defense against oral cancer. At biannual visits, dentists may examine patients' mouths for irregularities and unusual growths. If a growth is suspicious, the dentist will refer the patient for appropriate testing and/or treatment. Cancer is always best treated at its earliest stage – screening for cancer regularly benefits patients' functionality and decreases the costs of treating advanced-stage cancers. HPV is believed to cause 70% of oropharyngeal (throat and mouth) cancers in the U.S. each year, which is estimated to be approximately 14,000 instances of cancer.¹

We believe the *PREVENT HPV Cancers Act* will make great strides towards improving oral cancer awareness and prevention through its direct emphasis on promoting awareness of HPV vaccines and HPV-related cancers. AGD and the AGD Foundation

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Cancers Associated with Human Papillomavirus, United States, 2013–2017](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/hpv/statistics/cases.htm) *United States Cancer Statistics Data Brief* 2020;18. (Additional ref: <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/hpv/statistics/cases.htm>)



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are committed to working with Congress, the public, and other stakeholders in the fight against oral cancer.

AGD is the only professional association that exclusively represents the needs and interests of general dentists. As the country's second-largest dental association, AGD promotes oral health to the public and fosters general dentists' continued proficiency through quality continuing education. Established in 1972, the AGD Foundation aims to improve the public's oral health, with a primary focus on oral cancer awareness, risk factor prevention, and diagnostic training for general dentists.

We appreciate your commitment to improving the lives of all Americans and hope that you will consider advancing this bipartisan legislation (H.R.1550) shortly. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Daniel J. Buksa, JD, Associate Executive Director of Public Affairs, by phone at (312) 440-4328 or via email at daniel.buksa@agd.org to let us know how we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Cassis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bruce Cassis, D.D.S., MAGD
President
Academy of General Dentistry

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Myron Bromberg', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Myron (Mike) Bromberg, D.D.S.
Congressional Liaison
Academy of General Dentistry