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March 18, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. President, Speaker Pelosi and Leader McConnell,

On behalf of the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA), thank you for your leadership in combatting the public health and economic consequences of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The nation's more than 185,000 dental hygienists are licensed health professionals and members of the oral health care team who focus on preventing oral disease and identifying and treating oral disease. ADHA is providing regular updates to its members with respect to the coronavirus and the steps that we and all Americans can take to mitigate exposure to the virus and to ensure that hospitals and other essential health care infrastructure is able to support the expected spike in critical patient care needs. We all must work together to "flatten the curve" of the coronavirus so that our health care system is not overwhelmed by the expected increase in new COVID-19 cases.

As you lead the nation's response, we would be pleased to serve as a resource on oral health related matters. We ask that as you continue to develop targeted relief measures and enhanced employee benefits, that you appropriately consider the nation's oral health care providers. Importantly, as measures to address economic losses faced by employees are developed and implemented, we ask that dental hygienists and other oral health care providers are appropriately considered. In some cases, there may need to be distinctions made among different types of health care workers. Please ensure that dental hygienists are not prevented from receiving needed coronavirus-related employee benefits solely because they work in the health care field or because they often work on a part time basis or in a small office setting.

Oral health is integral to overall health and general well-being and we look forward to a future in which the oral health care delivery system is fully integrated into the medical care delivery system. We particularly appreciate Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar's recent congressional testimony in which he expressed "passion around dental health and its central importance." We are also

grateful for the forthcoming Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health and his commitment to oral health in America.

ADHA appreciates the strong steps that you, as our nation's leaders, have taken and will continue to take in order to flatten the coronavirus curve. Working together, Americans will prevail. Please contact ADHA Director of Advocacy & Education Ann Lynch (annl@adha.net) or ADHA Washington Counsel Karen Sealander (ksealander@mwe.com) at McDermott Will & Emery with questions or for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Crespin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Crespin, MPH, RDH
President

CC: HHS Secretary Alex M. Azar II
Surgeon General Jerome Adams, M.D., M.P.H.
Honorable Ben Cardin
Ann Battrell, MSDH, ADHA Chief Executive Officer