



American Association of Oral
and Maxillofacial Surgeons

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June 20, 2008

Senator Ben Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin,

On behalf of the entire membership of the American Association Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), I applaud your introduction of the Oral Health Initiative Act of 2008 (S. 3064). The AAOMS enthusiastically supports this legislation as we feel it is an important step towards closing the gaps in basic preventive oral health care seen in federally-supported health care programs such as Medicaid and SCHIP programs.

As you know, oral health care is often overlooked as a priority in our current health care system. We believe that the current gaps in coverage and access could be bridged by an audit of existing federal programs to determine a proper course of action for future oral health care programs. We feel that patients will greatly benefit from the assessment of these programs that you have proposed in your legislation.

Aside from the recent high profile deaths, such as Maryland's Deamonte Driver, thousands more children suffer with treatable pain and dental ailments that can result in lifelong damage. The good news is that most of these conditions can be prevented by expanding coverage and increasing the number of providers to treat the underserved, which is why we are proud to support S. 3064.

The AAOMS looks forward to working with you to promote passage of the Oral Health Initiative Act of 2008. Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for your introduction of this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Lee D. Pollan, DMD, MS
President