



October 10, 2019

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
U.S. House of Representatives
2227 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bilirakis,

On behalf of the 24,000 dental students represented by the American Student Dental Association (ASDA), we thank you for introducing the Veterans Early Treatment for Chronic Ailment Resurgence through Examinations Act of 2019 (H.R. 2628) that, if passed, will create a pilot program providing no-cost dental services to qualifying veterans.

The objective of improving the oral health of veterans aligns with ASDA's Veterans Care policy. ASDA's House of Delegates, the association's supreme legislative body, expressed their support for veterans' dental care by passing this policy in February 2019. The policy also supports legislation promoting access to veterans' dental care, including eligibility expansion of dental care to the VA.

As health care professionals that provide dental care to patients daily, we understand the multitude of barriers faced by many people. Veterans are a vulnerable population with specific needs that deserve access to care. Passage of the VET CARE Act is an important step to developing evidence-based solutions that will alleviate veterans' barriers to oral health care. We look forward to this act garnering more bipartisan collaboration to highlight the importance of this issue.

Thank you again for your support of veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig McKenzie", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Craig McKenzie, president
American Student Dental Association