

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
H-222, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of our member companies that provide dental equipment, supplies, materials and services to dentists and other oral care professionals, the Dental Trade Alliance (DTA) appreciates the work of Congress to date to combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). We recognize that the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (H.R.6074) and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R.6201) are important steps in what must be a multi-phased approach.

DTA urges Congress to take immediate additional steps to ensure patient safety and protect health care providers and provide financial relief to manufacturers of medical devices.

### **Assistance with Supply Chain Issues**

DTA members are aware of challenges that exist in getting needed supplies to areas of need. Our members have expertise in supply chain related issues. Please reach out to the DTA and its member companies if we can be of assistance during this time to meet these needs.

### **Relief for Essential Business Manufacturers**

Many of our oral health manufacturers are facing the same financial challenges as other businesses as a result of the impact of COVID-19.

- DTA recommends that Congress designate medical device manufacturers as Essential Businesses and encourage states to do the same to ensure they can continue supplying health professionals with the critical medical devices needed.
- DTA urges financial relief beyond Economic Injury Disaster Loans contained in H.R.6074 to assist manufacturers of medical devices so they can meet short-term obligations, including payroll, rent, and costs associated.

### **Regulatory Relief**

DTA has identified an area of important relief that the United States Trade Representative (USTR) can provide immediately to manufacturers of medical and oral health devices. New European Medical Device Regulations are scheduled to go into effect as of May 5, 2020. DTA members maintain concerns with these regulations as the European Union (EU) does not currently have the capacity of Notified Bodies to

assist U.S. manufacturers in complying with these updated regulations.

- DTA requests that the USTR communicate immediately with the EU to request a delay of these regulations for one year so that it does not cause a disruption in U.S. manufacturing of medical and oral health devices that could be exported to the EU.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continuing to work with you during this critical time to protect the health of our nation. If you would like additional information, please contact Patrick Cooney at [patrick@federalgrp.com](mailto:patrick@federalgrp.com) or at (202) 413-2629.

Sincerely,

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

Dave Steck

Henry Schein Dental, Vice President and General Manager  
Dental Trade Alliance, Board Chair

cc: Vice President Michael Pence  
HHS Secretary Alex Azar  
USTR Robert E. Lighthizer