

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
United States House of Representatives  
2434 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tony Cardenas  
United State House of Representatives  
1510 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Guthrie and Cardenas:

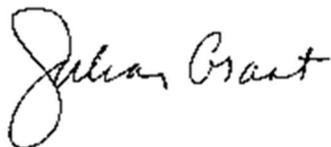
The Delta Dental Plans Association (DDPA) strongly supports HR 1624, the “Protecting Affordable Coverage for Employees Act.” Your bipartisan bill protects employee access to dental coverage by amending the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and allowing states the flexibility to define the appropriate size of their small group markets.

Prior to 2016, the ACA allowed states to define their small group market as 50 or fewer employees. As of 2016, groups with up to 100 employees will be defined as part of the small group market. Employers with 51 or more employees will be required to offer coverage as part of the ACA’s shared responsibility provisions, and their coverage choices may become more restricted once they fall under the new parameters of the small group market. HR 1624 gives states the flexibility they need to decide whether their small group marketplace should remain at 50 or fewer employees. This flexibility will ensure better choices of health plans and dental plans for constituents and employers in the small group market.

DDPA is the nation’s largest, most experienced dental benefits system. Since 1954, DDPA has worked to improve oral health in the U.S. by emphasizing preventive care, and making quality, cost-effective dental benefits affordable to a wide variety of large and small employers and groups, and individuals. DDPA has traditionally been a strong supporter of the small group marketplace. Our nationwide network of 39 companies and over 150,000 dentists serves more than 68.6 million Americans in over 122,000 groups across the country. Of these, approximately three million enrollees are in the small group market. By providing states the flexibility to appropriately define the small group market within their jurisdictions, your legislation promotes market stability and preserves dental coverage.

DDPA thanks you for your work on this issue and we stand ready to provide any further support of this legislation which is critical to ensuring coverage for America’s working families.

Sincerely,



Julia Grant

Vice President Government Relations  
Delta Dental Plans Association