

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 2015

July 29, 2015

Dr. Perry Tuneberg, Chair
Commission on Dental Accreditation
Board of Commissioners
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Dr. Tuneberg:

We are writing in strong support of the pending accreditation application submitted to the Commission on Dental Accreditation by the Meadowlands Hospital Medical Center (MHMC) for its orthodontic residency program, which will be located in Atlanta, Georgia. We understand that MHMC Orthodontic Residency Program will not only increase the number of orthodontists available to treat the population, but will also increase the number of underrepresented minority orthodontists. In addition, it will provide braces to children and adults at a significantly reduced cost, thereby expanding the market to individuals who cannot afford to see a private practice orthodontist.

We understand that MHMC Orthodontic Residency Program will focus on providing African American and Hispanic dentists more opportunities to become orthodontists, which is a highly sought-after specialty of dentistry. There are very few minority orthodontists currently enrolled in orthodontic residency programs, and the State of Georgia only graduates two orthodontic residents per year.

Currently, 40 percent of orthodontic care age patients are underrepresented minorities, yet underrepresented minorities make up only 5 percent of orthodontic providers. The American Dental Association found that "minority patients are more likely to see a dentist on a regular basis who shares their language and culture". The large discrepancy in underrepresented minority patients and doctors is staggering, and creates an unequal access to care. Even more disturbing is the fact that in the United States only 2.7 percent of orthodontic residents are African American and 5 percent are Hispanic.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Corrie Brown
Member of Congress

Abbe D. Hastings
Member of Congress

Dumky Dennis
Member of Congress

Samuel B. Bissell
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress

John Conyers
Member of Congress

Frederick Wilson
Member of Congress

Phil Frank
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Tommy Stinson
Member of Congress

Tommy Stinson
Member of Congress

Babar Aree
Member of Congress

Ben Rayburn
Member of Congress

Pat Kelly
Member of Congress

Wm. Lucy Clay
Member of Congress

Tim Swill
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Eddie Bernice Johnson
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Marcia A. Dudgeon
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Janice Bentley
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Stacy E. Platt
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