

# Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act – Oral Health Provisions and DH



The nation's new health reform law – the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ([PPACA](#)) – was signed into law in March, but work on implementing the many provisions of the new law are just getting underway. Efforts related to the oral health provisions contained in PPACA are at the forefront of ADHA's federal advocacy efforts right now, and state leaders are aware of the issue and how it impacts the dental hygiene profession.

To review the significant oral health provisions that were included in PPACA, you can view the chart that ADHA developed to highlight them here:

The various provisions and programs that are part of PPACA will be implemented over a series of years. However, in order for the provisions to be implemented, they must be funded by Congress. The inclusion of oral health in PPACA was meaningful because it recognized the importance of oral health to overall health – we certainly do not want those provisions to wither on the vine because they are not funded.

In the coming Fiscal Year, there are six dental provisions, including the grants for alternative dental health care providers, which are authorized to begin. ADHA is working with a broad coalition of more than 60 organizations to support funding for oral health provisions. To-date, some targeted alerts have been sent to [ADHA](#) members in specific Congressional districts/states as the House and Senate Appropriations Committees begin to consider funding for the coming year. Look for additional alerts to be sent out in the coming months.

If you would like any additional information about ADHA's advocacy efforts, please feel free to contact ADHA at any time ([gov.affairs@adha.net](mailto:gov.affairs@adha.net), 312.440.8925) – we are happy to answer questions and offer additional information.