

Key Oral Health Provisions Contained in the Final Health Reform Bill



	Legislation Details	Impact on Oral Health and Dental Hygiene
Bill Information	<p style="text-align: center;">HR 3590 <i>Originated in Senate; passed by Senate 12.24.2009</i> <i>Passed by House 3.21.2010</i> http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.111hr3590</p>	
Dental Benefits and Coverage	<p style="text-align: center;">Pediatric Dental Benefit</p> <p>Includes oral health care as part of the minimum services provided as part of the essential benefits package for children under 21 years of age. Section 1302(b)(1)(J)</p>	<p><i>The bill includes a mandatory pediatric dental which requires dental coverage be offered as part of any essential benefits package for children under the age of 21. The new law will enable stand-alone dental plans to offer dental benefits as part of any health insurance exchange and/or to subcontract with medical plans.</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Medicaid Eligibility</p> <p>Sets Medicaid eligibility rate for individuals at 133% of the Federal poverty level (\$29,327 for a family of four). Section 1331(e)</p>	<p><i>The bill expands Medicaid eligibility to all individuals at 133% of the Federal poverty level (FPL). This means that 16 million additional people will be eligible for coverage under Medicaid.</i></p>
Dental Workforce	<p style="text-align: center;">Alternative Dental Health Care Provider Demonstration Project Grants</p> <p>Awards grants for up to 15 demonstration programs to establish programs to train or employ alternative dental health providers to increase access to dental care in underserved communities. Programs to establish or employ advanced practice dental hygienists, public health dental hygienists, independent dental hygienists, dental therapists, and community dental health coordinators are among those eligible for grants. Section 5304</p>	<p><i>The Alternative Dental Health Care Provider grants provision contained will provide up to \$60 million in federal funding to educate and test new oral health workforce models. The provision is significant given the interest of oral health stakeholders, including ADHA, in demonstrating the potential effectiveness of new members of the oral health care team, like the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP). A host of dental hygiene workforce models are listed as eligible models to apply for the grants. The grant funding is a valuable opportunity to pilot test and evaluate emerging workforce models.</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Title VII Provisions to Expand and Educate the Oral Health Workforce</p> <p>Provisions to support training of general, pediatric, and public health dentists and dental hygienists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Federal monies to plan, develop and carry out professional training programs - Financial assistance for students who will practice in general, pediatric, or public health dentistry or dental hygiene - Grants for programs that train providers who plan to teach in general, pediatric, public health dentistry or dental hygiene Section 5303	<p><i>Along with including coverage for care, the final health reform bill includes provisions to develop the health care workforce to ensure providers are available to treat those eligible for services. Provisions are focused on expanding the number of oral health providers working with underserved areas or providing care to underserved populations. The bill contains provisions specific to the oral health workforce that include dental hygiene. The section recognizes dental hygienists as primary oral health providers, along with dentists. Dental hygiene providers, students, and education programs are listed as eligible entities in a number of the dental workforce development provisions.</i></p>

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<p>Dental Workforce (continued)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Alaskan Dental Health Aide Therapist Program</p> <p>Does not extend the DHAT program beyond Alaska, but enables Indian tribes or tribal organizations located in a state where dental health aide therapist or mid-level dental provider services are authorized under state law to administer such services on tribal land. The bill prohibits tribes from filling any job vacancies for a dentist with a dental health aide therapist. Section 10221</p>	<p><i>The bill includes provisions to address the health care needs of Native American and Alaska Native populations. The bill does not expand the DHAT program, but does not preclude dental therapist or dental mid-level providers from practicing on tribal land in any state as long as the services are authorized by state law. Essentially, the language would enable tribes to use new dental workforce provider models, like dental therapists and advanced dental therapists in Minnesota, to administer care on tribal land as long as state law enables the practice.</i></p>
<p>Disease Prevention and Oral Health Literacy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Grants to Support School-Based Health Clinics</p> <p>Charges the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to support the operation of school-based health clinics, including those that provide oral health services. Section 4101</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Oral Health Prevention and Education Campaign</p> <p>Five year, national oral health prevention and education campaign led by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) targeted towards vulnerable populations. Section 4102(a)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Research-Based Dental Caries Disease Management</p> <p>Establishes a grant program through the CDC for entities to demonstrate the effectiveness of research-based dental caries disease management activities. Section 4102(a)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">School-Based Sealant Programs</p> <p>Expands existing grant program for school sealant programs to include all 50 states and territories. Section 4102(a)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Investment in Oral Health Infrastructure and Surveillance</p> <p>Establishes cooperative grants program overseen by the CDC to award grants to states, territories, and Indian tribes and tribal organizations to establish oral health leadership and program guidance, oral health data collection and interpretation, a multi-dimensional oral health delivery system, and to implement science-based programs to improve oral health. Section 4102(a)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Updates to National Oral Health Care Surveillance Activities</p> <p>Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out various programs and efforts to improve oral health monitoring and data collection. Section 4102(a)</p>	<p><i>The bill establishes a grant program for school-based health clinics and extends eligibility to clinics that offer oral health services. The legislation includes a number of other provisions to improve oral health literacy and surveillance. The provisions also seek to expand school-based sealant programs and support additional investment in oral health infrastructure.</i></p>