

2015 Lobbying Accomplishments



FOR YOUR DENTAL PRACTICE

Permanent Increase of Section 179 Expensing Deduction. The ADA led the way for a permanent extension of Section 179 expensing, which allows for deductions of new equipment and property up to \$500,000, with the deduction phased out for investments exceeding \$2 million.

Two-Year Delay of Medical Device Tax. ADA participated in a large coalition that advanced legislation to repeal the 2.3 percent excise tax on medical devices. A two-year delay provides additional time for the ADA and others to work to eliminate the tax in the future.

Reverse the Medicare Part D Prescriber Requirement. The ADA is continuing to pursue a two pronged approach to the issue of enrollment in or opting out of Medicare as required by the Medicare Part D regulation. While the ADA fights for legislation to repeal this provision, the ADA is providing the best and most useful information for members to comply.

Two-Year Delay of Cadillac Tax. There is a two-year delay of enforcement of the "Cadillac Tax", which would impose a 40 percent excise tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health plans. The delay provides additional time to address the unintended consequences associated with the tax, such as the adverse effects on FSAs that are used by many patients to pay for dental care.

Reform ERISA. The ADA advanced legislation that would help consumers receive the full value of their dental coverage. H.R. 1677 requires all self-insured health plans that offer dental benefits to provide uniform coordination and assignment of benefits.

Amend the McCarran-Ferguson Law. The ADA advanced legislation that would authorize the Federal Trade Commission and Justice Department to enforce federal antitrust laws against health insurance companies engaged in anticompetitive activity. H.R. 494 has 96 Cosponsors.

FOR THE DENTAL PROFESSION

Upheld Prohibition on Use of Funds for Alternative Dental Health Providers. The ADA defeated efforts to allow the Department of Health and Human Services to use funds to train or employ alternative dental health care providers, as authorized in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This prohibition has been in place for more than five years.

Fought for Military Dental Research Funding. Funding will continue at \$6 million. Military research units address dental disease and battle injuries.

Defeated Efforts to Reduce the Rank of the Chief Dental Officers serving in the Armed Forces. The Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act (S. 1376) included a provision to reduce the rank of the Army, Air Force and Navy Chief Dental Officers. The ADA lobbied against these provisions and won.