

## Legislative Summary Update on HR 6201

March 17, 2020

Congress is currently considering the second legislative package related to COVID-19. This package, which was developed between Speaker Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, is focused on short-term issues such as child and elderly nutrition programs; testing for COVID-19; unemployment benefits; and family medical leave/sick leave.

The bill, HR 6201, is headed to the Senate floor for a vote after the House adopted technical corrections (*unknown at this time*) last night that were needed to move the bill forward. This is important because provisions in HR 6201 regarding family medical leave/sick leave, while beneficial to employees in a dental practice, could cause a financial burden to dentist owners and other small businesses in America.

Just yesterday, the ADA joined a coalition of 75 organizations that represent small business owners to express our concerns about the family medical leave/sick leave provisions. A number of Senators are also concerned and will seek to amend those provisions, if they were not altered by the House in their technical corrections bill. We will work with those Senate offices if the House bill was not amended appropriately.

That said, Members of Congress are working on a third legislative package related to COVID-19. This package is expected to provide at least \$750 billion to alleviate the economic crisis facing millions of Americans. The new proposal, among other things, contains provisions to increase federal funding to provide immediate help to small businesses. The ADA will be working to ensure that those provisions will benefit our dentist owners.