

# ACTPCMD

## Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry

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May 19, 2010

The Honorable Sebelius  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

At the April 22, 2010 meeting of HRSA's Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry (ACTPCMD), the Committee voted unanimously to recommend a separate HRSA advisory committee for training in dentistry.

Since its inception in 1998, this Committee has worked to achieve its assigned objectives of providing advice and recommendations on issues dealing with programs and activities authorized under Title VII, section 747 of the Public Health Service Act. Specifically, section 747 has included training programs in primary care medicine, physician assistant training programs, and advanced education programs in pediatric dentistry and general dentistry. The active and collegial participation of its diverse membership has enabled the Committee to cover a broad range of issues. However, the recently enacted Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has expanded the scope of the Committee's dental responsibilities so dramatically that we feel a change is in order.

The new legislation has removed dentistry from the previous section 747 and created a separate Title VII, section 748, Training in General, Pediatric, and Public Health Dentistry. Further, it has broadly expanded the scope to include pre-doctoral dentistry, dental hygiene, and advanced education in public health dentistry; and dentistry was given a separate, increased appropriation. New programs never before made available to primary care dentistry now include fellowships for dentists who plan careers in teaching, faculty development, faculty loan repayment, and others. In addition to advising on policies related to these programs, important and complex workforce issues in dentistry will need to be addressed.

All of the dental programs included in this legislation need to be fairly represented. The ACTPCMD believes that the breadth and complexity of dental issues now exceed the ability of a single committee to provide timely and effective recommendations to you and to Congress. Accordingly, we recommend that a separate Advisory Committee on Training in General, Pediatric, and Public Health Dentistry be created to advise on issues related to grant funding under the new section 748. We also recommend the

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existing Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry be renamed the Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine with scope of advice related to the new section 747.

We appreciate your attention to this recommendation. We believe its implementation will contribute significantly to achieving the goals of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act with regard to both primary care medicine and dentistry.  
Sincerely,

/s/

William Alton Curry, M.D.  
Chair, Advisory Committee on Training  
in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry

cc: Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N.  
Administrator  
Janet Heinrich, Dr.P.H.,R.N.  
Associate Administrator