



August 2020 Newsletter

Join the Final Advocacy Push!

This month, Virginia's General Assembly has returned to Richmond to make tough decisions about the state's budget. All new spending was unallotted earlier in the year, including funding for a comprehensive dental benefit in Medicaid, but health advocates have the opportunity to change that.

Use the button below to email House Appropriations Chairman Torian to share why a dental benefit is necessary.

We are so close to making oral health care a reality for hundreds of thousands of Virginians but to do that we need your help, each email sent shows the critical need for a dental benefit.

[Email Delegate Torian](#)

We will send an email when the budget has been released. To get involved with Catalyst's ongoing advocacy efforts throughout the August legislative session email [Chloe Van Zandt](#).

Register for the 2020 Virginia Oral Health Summit!

Join members of the health care community from October 7-9 for the fully virtual 2020 Virginia Oral Health Summit! This year's event is filled with nationally recognized speakers, networking opportunities, and Virginia-specific information and innovations. Find the full agenda and registration details [here](#).

Additional Resources

- Voting in the 2020 November Election

As health advocates in Virginia, we've seen firsthand the impact an election can have on the health and wellbeing of Virginians. There are several ways to vote in the November 2020 general election, and making sure each partner and community member registers to vote is vital. By visiting the [Virginia Department of Elections page](#) you can register to vote, update your registration, or request a mail-in ballot.

- New Research Shows Link Between Gum Disease and COVID-19 Outcomes

In a [new report](#) in the Journal of the California Dental Association, researchers found COVID-19 patients with gum disease were more likely to experience severe complications. While patients may be waiting to return to the dentist for regular cleanings, studies like this show the importance of emphasizing good

home oral hygiene practices like brushing and flossing.

- Oral Health and Healthy People 2030

This month HHS launched [Healthy People 2030](#), which seeks not only to address the clinical needs of Americans but the environmental and social factors that impact a person's health. The initiative includes [15 oral health objectives](#) that range from ensuring more Americans have access to dental coverage to reducing tooth decay and keeping water systems fluoridated. This report, coupled with the anticipated release of the Surgeon General's Oral Health Report later this year, will help guide the future of oral health research and initiatives across the country.

- New COVID-19 Resources for Rural Health Providers

Rural health care providers face unique challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Rural Health Information Hub continues to provide resources for providers, including dentists. Find information and guidance documents [here](#).

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