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The mission of ADEA is to lead institutions and individuals in the dental education community to address contemporary issues influencing education, research and the delivery of oral health care for the overall health and safety of the public.

655 K Street, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202.289.7201
Fax: 202.289.7204
adea.org

November 16, 2015

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

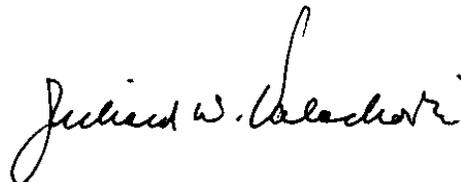
The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) represents all 66 U.S. dental schools, 700 dental residency programs, nearly 600 allied dental programs, as well as the more than 12,000 faculty who educate and train the nearly 50,000 students and residents attending these institutions. I write to express ADEA's support for your initiative to combat heroin and prescription opioid abuse, and to make you aware of our commitment, along with our health profession colleagues, to address this problem through training in our dental schools.

ADEA member institutions, through curricula development, pre-doctoral training, and post-doctoral dissemination of best practices, are at the forefront of efforts to ensure that oral pain is properly diagnosed, treated and managed. Dentists, and oral health professionals, stand as the primary providers of comfort and treatment to patients who experience pain related to a spectrum of oral health issues, and the prescribing of opioids is one of many components of an oral pain management treatment plan.

Therefore, Mr. President, ADEA would like to assure you that academic dentistry is equally concerned and committed to solutions to address the prescription drug and opioid abuse problem in the United States. We believe it is imperative that the oral health professionals we train recognize and work to prevent drug addiction behavior while keeping pain management drugs available for patients.

Please feel free to use ADEA as a resource as you embark on addressing this pressing issue. If we can be of assistance, please contact Yvonne Knight, J.D., ADEA Chief Advocacy Officer at KnightY@adea.org. We look forward to working with the White House and our health professions colleagues on this issue of mutual concern.

Sincerely,



Richard W. Valachovic, D.M.D., M.P.H.
President and CEO

cc: Michael Botticelli, Director
Office of National Drug Control Policy