March 11, 2023

Dear Friends,

It’s a pleasure to welcome the American Dental Education Association and its members to Portland, Oregon for your centennial celebration. This year’s theme of “Believe, I’m Possible” is especially significant. If we’re to provide the best education to students, we need to come together, learn from our experiences over the past three years, and recognize how adaptive and resilient we are. As educators, this will give you a strong foundation to imagine what’s possible going forward.

The past three years have been some of the most challenging health care students and educators have had to face. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted all aspects of health education. Students and educators were forced to rethink what was possible and how to minimize disruptions while keeping themselves and their communities safe. While we may not be completely past the COVID-19 pandemic, we can still use the lessons we learned to strengthen and support future programs.

I’m honored to welcome you all to Portland and look forward to seeing the great strides you make in promoting oral health for all Oregonians. Here’s to the next 100 years!

Courage,

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress