



Take 30

Get Ready for Our
Virtual Day of Action

May 7, 2025



About OPEN

Connect on oral health issues — start discussions, learn from one another, and share resources.

Align with change agents and advocates.

Take Action to advance accessible oral health care for everyone.

Join at carequest.org/open



**Poll: Have you
participated in
a virtual Day
of Action
before?**



What do we want to accomplish?



Groundswell of support.



Raise awareness.



Influence Congress to act.

Our Policy Priorities

- **Action 1:** Oppose **Medicaid** cuts that would jeopardize access to dental care for 72 million people who rely on the program.
- **Action 2:** Improve access to dental care for **veterans** who get medical care through the VA.
- **Action 3:** Support the **HEADs UP Act**, which would designate people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) as a Medically Underserved Population (MUP) and increase their access to oral health care.



[Past Recordings](#)
[Slides](#)

3 Ways to Take Action

Take Action: Email Members

- Automatically emails your US Senators & House Rep
- Simply enter your address

Pro Tip!

Customize your email:

- Add info about your org
- Include your experience in oral health field
- Share state context/data

Subject

Act Now: Oral Health Access Improves Outcomes & Lowers C

Message

Dear Member of Congress,

As your constituent, I am writing today to urge you to take action on a pressing but often overlooked issue: oral health. I am a member of OPEN, a nationwide coalition of individuals and organizations working to tackle the oral health challenges facing our country. We believe everyone deserves access to good oral health—and we hope you'll join us in making that vision a reality.

As Congress considers critical decisions on health care, we urge you to take the following actions to protect and improve oral health access across the country:

1. Oppose any Medicaid cuts that would threaten dental care access for 72 million Americans.

Medicaid is a lifeline, particularly for children, people with disabilities, and low-income adults and seniors. Cuts would force states to roll back adult dental benefits, increasing ER visits, shutting down safety net dental programs, and driving up overall health care costs.

2. Improve access to dental care for veterans.

The majority of veterans don't qualify for VA dental coverage, and those who do face geographic and financial barriers. Nearly 8 million veterans report poor oral health—with rural

Take Action: Post on Social Media

- Use our toolkit
- Sample posts
- Graphics available for Facebook, X, Instagram & LinkedIn
- Use #OPENHiIDay

Pro Tip!

Tag your legislators in the post to engage directly.

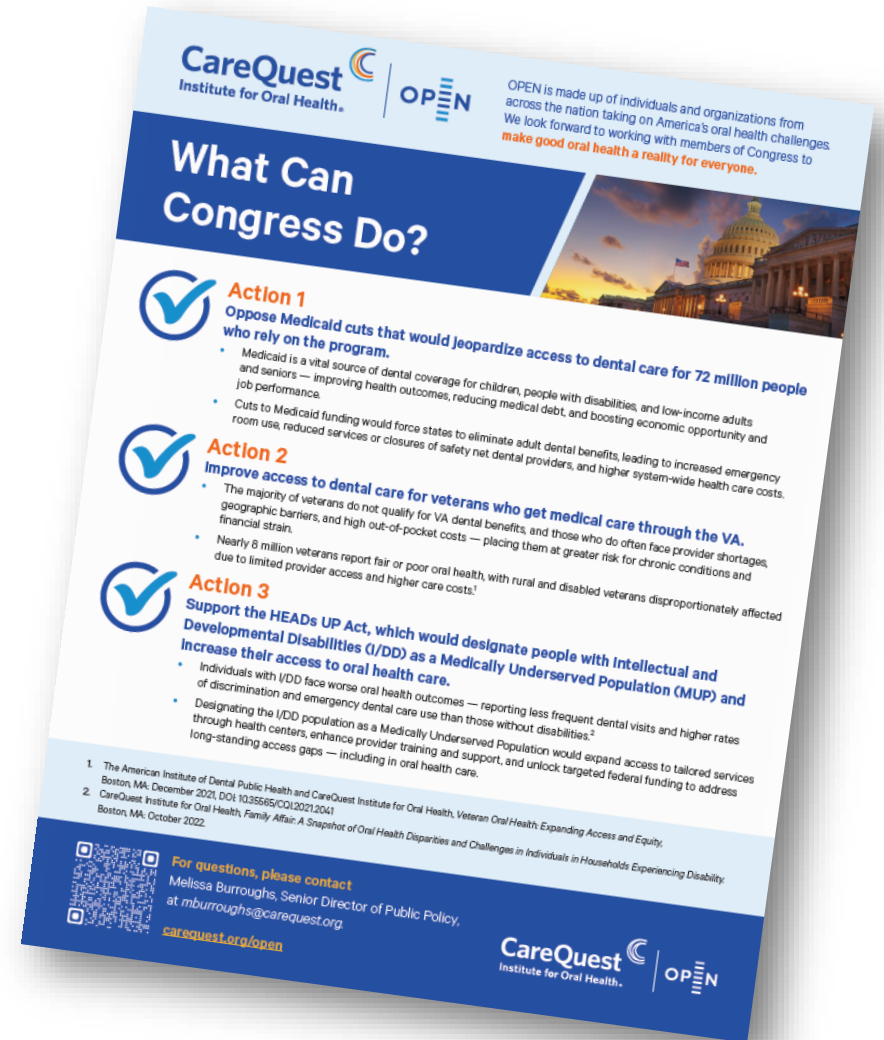


Take Action: Request a Member Meeting

- Contact the office of your members of Congress to request a virtual meeting (or at their local office)
- Use our one-pagers to discuss the 3 policy “asks” in your meeting
- After: Log your interaction

Pro Tip!

If you have an existing contact in the Member office, email them directly.



**Poll: Have you
ever visited
your members'
websites?**



Tips for a Successful Member Meeting

- **No existing contact?** Visit your members' websites and look for "request a meeting" or "contact my office" page.
- **Research** your members in advance
- Prepare an **"elevator pitch"**
- Share both **facts + stories**
 - Describe what's in the "Leave-behinds"
 - Add links in the calendar invite
- **Don't be discouraged** by unproductive meetings or worry if meeting time is limited
- Don't feel like you need to be an expert in all the issues. If you're asked something you don't know, feel free to say, **"That's a good question, we can look into that and follow up."**
- **Don't be late!**

Next Steps

May 14 Virtual Day of Action!



The screenshot shows the top of the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health website. The header is dark blue with the CareQuest logo on the left, a language selection dropdown in the center, and navigation links on the right. The main content area has a dark blue background with white text. On the left, it says 'Take Action for Oral Health' and 'Participate in OPEN's Virtual Day of Action | May 14, 2025'. On the right, there is a graphic with the CareQuest and OPEN logos, the text 'DAY OF ACTION', and a photograph of the US Capitol building at dusk.

CareQuest
Institute for Oral Health®

Select Language ▼ Who We Are Latest News Careers Q Log in/Register

Stories of Impact How We Work ▼ Topics ▼ Resources & Tools Education & CEs ▼

Take Action for Oral Health


Participate in OPEN's Virtual Day of Action | May 14, 2025

Now more than ever, it is crucial to amplify our collective voice to safeguard oral health coverage and access for communities across the US.

While a group of OPEN members are meeting with congressional leaders in Washington, DC, you can make an impact from home by participating in our Virtual Day of Action.

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— DAY OF —
ACTION



Q+A





OPEN