ASDA Advocacy: 2018 in review

Legislative Activities & Successes

1. Action for Dental Health Act: PASSED
   - ASDA members sent more than 600 letters to congress advocating for the bill’s passage.
   - The bill was signed into law on Dec. 11, 2018 and allows organizations to qualify for oral health grants administered by the Centers for Disease Control.

2. SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act: PASSED
   - Principles that ASDA advocated at the ADA Dentist and Student Lobby Day were adopted with this bill’s passage on Oct. 24, 2018.
   - The bill authorizes research, grants and other programs to combat the opioid crisis.

3. Student debt alleviation: ASDA lobbied on Capitol Hill with other dental organizations for measures to lessen the student debt burden.
   - Bills supported by ASDA:
     - Aim Higher Act
     - Student Loan Refinancing and Recalculation Act
     - Student Loan Refinancing Act

4. Coalition letters: ASDA, alongside other dental organizations, supported:
   - Resident Education Deferred Interest Act (REDI), which focuses on interest accrual for physicians/dentists in residency.
   - Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Act, which will keep dental faculty members from paying “potentially hefty” tax bills on federal loan repayment benefits.

Student Engagement

61: Number of ASDA’s 66 chapters that hosted the Advocacy Molar Bear

Student attendees at ADA Dentist and Student Lobby Day

*2016 - 380 students attended ASDA Student Lobby Day
*2017 - 406 students attended ASDA Student Lobby Day
*2018 - 504 students attended ASDA Student Lobby Day