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FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1884

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### **FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATION COMMENDS GOV. CRIST DENTAL BILL SIGNING**

**TALLAHASSEE** – The Florida Dental Association (FDA) commends Gov. Charlie Crist for signing CS/HB 185 into law. The bill increases the quality of Florida’s oral health care by placing protections and safeguards on access-to-dental care initiatives.

“By making oral health a priority, Gov. Crist is increasing the quality of health care for Floridians,” FDA President Dr. Ted Haeussner said. “The FDA greatly appreciates the administration’s support of access-to-care efforts.”

Specifically, the bill:

- provides increased protections for dental providers who sign contracts with managed-care organizations.
- adds a dentist to the Florida Healthy Kids Board of Directors.
- provides flexibility in accumulating continuing education hours in the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program within the Department of Health.

The FDA also would like to thank Rep. Matt Hudson (R-Naples) and Sen. Don Gaetz (R-Fort Walton Beach) for sponsoring the bills during this year’s legislative session. Their hard work and commitment made it possible to get this legislation approved and supported by both chambers.

The FDA is a Tallahassee-based, statewide, professional association representing member-dentists throughout Florida. Founded in 1884 by 12 dentists, the FDA now has almost 7,000 members, representing about 70 percent of all Florida-licensed dentists. The FDA maintains three offices in Tallahassee and has 60 employees. A constituent society of the American Dental Association, the mission of the FDA is to improve the oral health of Florida residents, promote ethical practice standards, and direct the evolution of the practice environment through continuous education and advocacy for the profession and the public.

For more information about dentistry in Florida, visit [www.floridadental.org](http://www.floridadental.org).

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