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To: Senate Budget and Tax Committee
Bill: SB 192 – Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act
Date: February 26, 2020
Position: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Dental Action Committee supports SB 192 – Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act with an amendment to preserve funding for the Community Health Resources Commission for fiscal 2021 and beyond. We are in strong support of ensuring that the Community Health Resources Commission has the opportunity to support the unmet needs of safety net providers across Maryland.

The Commission has been very supportive of expanding the capacity of safety net providers for adult dental services. As this Committee knows, Medicaid does not have an adult dental benefit. This means low-income adults must rely on safety net providers for their unmet needs. The Commission has been instrumental in expanding the dental safety net capacity across the state, including programs to reduce emergency room visits in Frederick and Anne Arundel Counties, expanding the capacity of private providers to provide reduced services in Allegany County, and expansion of dental capacity to meet the significant needs for adult dental services in Cecil County.

In June 2019, the Department implemented the adult dental waiver program which adds dental coverage for dually-eligible adults between the ages of 19-64 years of age. The Commission's work, by expanding dental capacity, has supported implementation of the waiver.

Please continue to support the Community Health Resources Commission's full funding. Please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443 if we can provide any further information.

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders