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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 18, 2020

**Testimony In SUPPORT of HB 471 - State Board of Dental Examiners - Dental  
Specialization – Requirements**

House Bill 471 is a clarifying bill that reflects recent national changes in the recognition and certification of dental specialties.

The bill merely changes references in statute from the “American Dental Association (ADA)” and the “Commission on Dental Accreditation” to the “National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialists and Certifying Boards.”

In late 2016, the Board of Trustees of the ADA charged its Task Force on Specialty and Specialty Certifying Board Recognition to evaluate the process and criteria by which specialties and specialty certifying boards are recognized.

This resulted in part from concerns about anti-trust implications of the Certifying body being an American Dental Association’s Commission. The establishment of the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards was the result.

The National Commission is independent in its decision-making process for the recognition of dental specialties and certifying boards to avoid bias and conflicts of interest. The Commission is intended to emulate the processes for recognition of specialties and certifying boards in other health professions. The Commission’s Membership consists of 21 members: 10 dental specialists, 10 general dentists, and one consumer member.

This bill merely changes the references in statute to reflect this change.

Thank you and I ask for a favorable report on HB 471.