

Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

5900 Abriana Way, Elkridge, Maryland 21075

From: Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

To: Chairman William Smith Jr.

Re: Senate Bill 153

Criminal Law-Abuse or Neglect of a Vulnerable Adult-Causing Severe Emotional Distress lth

Date: January 21, 2020

The Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. is in Favor of SB 153

We represent the Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition (Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness). We were established in 2000, our mission is "To create an atmosphere of understanding in dentistry and other professional communities which will result in the prevention of abuse and neglect through early identification and appropriate intervention for those who have been abused or neglected." Dentists and Dental Hygienists (Dental Professionals) are mandated by the State of Maryland to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect. Our coalition has established a Continuing Education (CE) course that educates Dental Professionals and other how to recognize, report, or refer. The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners has deemed this course as a mandatory CE requirement for Dentists and Hygienists to renew their licenses. We also address domestic violence, elder abuse and human trafficking in our CE course.

Sever emotional stress effects the whole body and can cause existing health conditions to exacerbate. A vulnerable adult is not able to take care of themselves or protect themselves from malicious individuals. It is important that the law attempt to safeguard these individuals and help to make their lives less stressful.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 153 and be urge your support of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

Carol Caiazzo, RDH President

Susan Camardese, RDH, MS, Vice President