

February 7, 2022

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee  
Taylor House Office Building, Room 241  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
email: [shane.pendergrass@house.state.md.us](mailto:shane.pendergrass@house.state.md.us)

**RE: HB 6**

Dear Delegate Pendergrass,

The University of Maryland School of Dentistry would like to thank you and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee for your continued support and advocacy for improving access and expanded dental care for the citizens of Maryland. The School of Dentistry strongly supports HB 6, which would authorize comprehensive dental care for adults whose annual household income is at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty. Conclusive evidence demonstrates that good oral health is integral to overall health, positive healthcare outcomes, and quality of life. Persistent disparities in oral health pose a major public health challenge, with low-income and racial and ethnic minority populations continuing to experience a greater burden of dental disease. The combination of Medicaid expansion and coverage of Medicaid dental benefits has been shown to increase access to dental care among low-income adults and improve clinical parameters of oral health. HB 6 provides a critical opportunity and pathway to improve oral health and promote the general health of many vulnerable and underserved citizens of Maryland. The School of Dentistry is proud to have provided dental care to more than 65,000 patients in over 700,000 clinic visits in the past 5 years.

The University of Maryland School of Dentistry stands ready to assist in any way possible to expand services and access to health care in our communities.

Thank you for your support of HB 6.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Reynolds, DDS, PhD  
Dean