

Karyn Carr Porter, RDH, BS
Dental Hygiene Supervisor
1111 North Charles St
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-837-2050 * 4412
kcarrporter@chasebrexton.org

Chair Shane E. Pendergrass
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chair Pendergrass:

On behalf of the myself and the entire dental team at Chase Brexton Health Care, we strongly support House Bill 6 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Coverage for Adults. This bill will greatly increase the span and quality of care our patients can affordably receive.

As a dental hygienist, I have worked in the public health field since 2012 to the present day and am currently employed in one of Baltimore's largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Most of our patients are low-income, uninsured adults in the surrounding area. Many of our adult patients that already have a dental plan through the state of Maryland are only able to receive preventive care or limited emergency care. If they need anything else, such as restoratives, extractions, dentures, and deeper cleanings (scaling and root planning), they have only a few options right now to afford these services.

- Pay out of pocket, full cost.
- Apply for our sliding fee scale for reduced fee (based on income and family size).
- Apply for hardship voucher our FQHC can sometimes provide for a coupon towards dental services.
- Put off getting any work done.

Sadly, putting off needed dental work is the most common choice, and has greater consequences than it might first appear to have. Maintenance of cavities and infections in the mouth is a vital step in preventing escalation of health issues. Left untended due to difficulty of receiving care, these problems can damage health in other parts of the body, such as an increased risk of cardiac disease and complications to managing diabetes. If we could ensure options for more robust dental coverage throughout this state, and see these important treatments carried out, that can only serve to benefit the immediate oral health of our patients, and prevent further, more dramatic burdens on their overall health and the healthcare system.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Karyn Carr Porter at kcarrporter@chasebrexton.org or 410-837-2050 * 4412.

Sincerely,

Karyn Carr Porter, RDH, BS
Dental Hygiene Supervisor
Chase Brexton Health Care

Chase Brexton Dental Team:Mount Vernon:

Dr. Brooks Woodward
Dr. Neuthan Rao
Dr. Sean O'Connor
Karyn Carr Porter, RDH, BS
Antonio Robinson
Twila Shipley
Chekeda Hatcher
Jessica Graves
Tamiya Taylor
Gerhari Jackson
Mallorie Brothers
Sean Terry

Columbia:

Dr. Ayana Gallego
Saidat Popoola-Sampson, RDH, BS
Karuna Warriar, RDH, BS
Edlam Demisse

Glen Burnie:

Dr. Lisa King-Baker
Dr. Stephanie Dennison
Leah Soucy, RDH, BS
Tonya Hawkins

Randallstown:

Dr. Genevieve Graves-Appiah
Nikia Stevens