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Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: SB 245 – Maryland Community Health Resources Commission – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation

Hearing Date: January 17, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition strongly supports *Senate Bill 245 – Maryland Community Health Resources Commission – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation*. The Commission’s mission is to support access to care in underserved communities through community health centers.

MDAC applauds the Maryland General Assembly and the Governor for their commitment to dental coverage for the underserved. In the past five years, Maryland has incrementally expanded Medicaid coverage of adult dental services. Last year, we saw the full implementation of dental coverage for all adults in Maryland with Medicaid. In just the first year of the program, over 175,000 adults, nearly 20% of adult Medicaid enrollees, obtained dental care. For some of those individuals, it was the first time they had received dental services in years.

The Commission has been an important partner in Maryland’s progress in expanding access to dental care. The Commission has consistently prioritized access to dental services in awarding funding, allowing the expansion of dental services at federal qualified health centers, community health centers, and school-based health centers.

We ask for a favorable report so that the Commission can continue to support Maryland’s efforts to ensure all individuals can access dental, somatic, and behavioral health care in their communities. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders