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Health and Government Operations  
Committee  
*Subcommittees*

Health Occupations and Long-Term Care

Public Health and  
Minority Health Disparities



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
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**HB103 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Dental Services - Coverage and Rate Study**

Good afternoon Madame Chair, Madame Vice Chair, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you about House Bill 103.

Oral health is a critical component of public health. The need for dental care is felt acutely among some of Maryland's most vulnerable demographics, especially in low-income communities and among seniors. Currently, Medicaid does not cover full or partial dentures or dental treatment outside of accredited facilities, meaning treatment that takes place in a residence or extended care facility (known as a "house call"). HB103 will lay the groundwork for regulatory and policy changes that could allow greater access to these dental services for low-income and elderly individuals on Medicaid.

HB103 will commission a study by the Maryland Department of Health to determine the feasibility of including coverage for dentures and dental house calls through Medicaid, specifically through the Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program. The study will include input from professional dental organizations and advocacy groups that promote access to dental services. It will be completed by December 1, 2024 using existing MDH funding streams. This study is necessary in order to proceed with these changes in a responsible manner.

This study is an important step to ensuring all Marylanders have access to the dental care they need. I respectfully ask for a favorable report on House Bill 103.