



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)

To the Health and Government Operations

Chair: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk

February 12, 2024

House Bill 0103: Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Dental Services - Coverage and Rate Study

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA), is in SUPPORT of House Bill 0103: Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Dental Services - Coverage and Rate Study.

Dentures play an essential part in someone's health. This study will help identify gaps in coverage for those needing full or partial dentures and the appropriate reimbursement rates. "Removable dentures have the advantage that they can be readily added to in the event of further tooth loss, which may be particularly relevant for older adults. Partial dentures which optimize support, retention, and stability can function very successfully and significantly improve patients' oral health-related quality of life." (Friel & Waia, 2020)

*On behalf of the Maryland Rural Health Association,
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Friel, T., & Waia, S. (2020). Removable Partial Dentures for Older Adults. *Primary dental journal*, 9(3), 34–39.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/2050168420943435>