

HB0771 Student Health - Program for Student Dental Health - Established

Thursday, March 27, 2025

EDUCATION, ENERGY, & THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

Our names are Julien Halleman, Noah Gordon, Olivia Chin, and Dhru Nahan, and we are students of Anne Arundel County and executive team members of the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils (CRASC). We are writing **in support of HB0771 Student Health - Program for Student Dental Health**. The passing of this bill would require the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to create a program that includes the description general dental health standards as well as information on how to find insurance that covers dental care, a list of pediatric dentists, and the importance of maintaining good dental hygiene in student handbooks and on the schools local website. **The implementation of this bill would instill lifelong healthy dental habits in young children. Additionally, it could also motivate children to be more confident in their smiles, promoting student empowerment.**

The childhood and adolescence years are one of the most impressionable years of a child's life, with the median age of 12 being the most impressionable by their [parent's influence](#), making these years crucial to instilling good habits. While children can be most directly affected and influenced by their parents, schools play an important part as well; after all, most children spend a quarter to a third of their day there. By exposing proper dental hygiene habits to children via websites and school campaigns, students can have access to proper information about dental care that is viable, as opposed to them obtaining unreliable dental information on the internet. With this information, healthy habits can be formed that could steer the child away from dental issues and diseases as they continue to grow into adulthood. Additionally, the knowledge of one healthy habit could trigger the desire for healthier choices in other areas of life.

Furthermore, reliable dental information wouldn't just benefit the child physically, but also socially. When first meeting someone, [the smile is the first thing we see](#). Kids who have improper dental hygiene habits may also consequently be insecure about the way their teeth or smile looks, inhibiting the child from making new social connections at school or settings with unfamiliar people.

In conclusion, the passing of HB0771 would (1) instill healthy dental habits for kids at a young age, (2) influence children to be more health-conscious overall, and (3) could push kids to make new connections by putting their best smile forward.

The CRASC Legislative Department refers back to the following relevant clauses of the CRASC Platform:

- *CRASC Supports...*Implementation and availability of health services to students for confidential (Plank 4, Clause A)
- *CRASC Supports...*Comprehensive and quality health education for all genders and sexualities. (Plank 4, Clause L)

Accordingly, CRASC respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB0771.

Respectfully Submitted,

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