

Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

5900 Abriana Way, Elkridge, Maryland 21075

From: Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

To: Chairman Luke Clippinger

Re: House Bill 820

Child Abuse and Neglect- Training og Health Care Professional

Date: February 20, 2020

The Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. is in Favor of HB 820

We represent the Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition (Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness). We were established in 2000, our mission is “To create an atmosphere of understanding in dentistry and other professional communities which will result in the prevention of abuse and neglect through early identification and appropriate intervention for those who have been abused or neglected.” Dentists and Dental Hygienists (Dental Professionals) are mandated by the State of Maryland to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect. Our coalition has established a Continuing Education (CE) course that educates Dental Professionals and other how to recognize, report, or refer. The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners has deemed this course as a mandatory CE requirement for Dentists and Hygienists to renew their licenses. We also address domestic violence, elder abuse and human trafficking in our CE course.

Members of the Dental Profession are mandated reporters of Abuse and Neglect, studies indicated that few if any cases were reported due to the lack of knowledge on how to report and what signs to look for. The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners has mandated that all Dentists and Dental Hygienists are required to take an approved continuing education course on abuse and neglect every other license renewal. We encourage other Health Professions to do the same. Training should definitely be available as it helps to empower an individual to do the right thing for an abused or neglected child. Since our CE course has be made available in 2000 we have had a favorable response on reports being made.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 820 and be urge your support of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

Carol Caiazzo, RDH President

Susan Camardese, RDH, MS, Vice President