



**Prince George's County Board of Education**  
14201 School Lane • Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772 • [www.pgcps.org](http://www.pgcps.org)

**January 28, 2020**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Telephone: 301-952-6115  
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**Re:** Testimonial Statement for Maryland General Assembly *House Bill 0015 - Public Schools - Student Health - Certificate of Dental Health*

**2020 Legislative Session**

*Board Member*  
**K. Alexander Wallace**  
District 7

**Sponsor:** Delegate Andrea Fletcher Harrison

**Position:** SUPPORT

**Schools:**

Andrew Jackson Academy  
Arrowhead Elementary  
Barack Obama Elementary  
Benjamin Foulois Creative and  
Performing Arts K-8  
Benjamin Stoddert Middle  
Bradbury Heights Elementary  
District Heights Elementary  
Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High  
Drew-Freeman Middle  
Imagine Foundations at Morningside  
Public Charter School  
Imagine Lincoln Public Charter  
Longfields Elementary  
North Forestville Elementary  
Overlook Spanish Immersion  
Princeton Elementary  
Samuel P. Massie Academy  
Suitland Elementary  
Suitland High  
William Beanes Elementary

To Chairwoman Kaiser, Vice Chairman Washington, and the members of the House of Delegates' Ways and Means Committee:

Please accept this testimonial statement of support for *House Bill 0015 - Public Schools - Student Health - Certificate of Dental Health*.

Presently, I sit as a member of the Board of Education for the Prince George's County Board of Education, representing the Seventh District - a district that, like many areas throughout the State of Maryland, has difficulties in providing adequate and accessible health care opportunities for our citizens, mostnamely, our students. Moreover, as it relates directly to our students, when quality, accessible health care is not properly provided, there are tiered negative impacts on the wellbeing and success of their academic growth, as well as that of their classmates, such as classroom disruptions, vocally and/or physically, as well as chronic absences and truancy.

While my board colleagues, as a body, have not directly expressed an opinion on this particular bill, I am submitting my written support for this important legislative measure that, I believe, can aid in supporting the thousands of families throughout our state who struggle with finding the proper dental health care needs for their students. This bill would serve as a needed mandate for the state and local governmental agencies to partner together, as done in numerous other ways already, for the betterment and progression of our childrens' lives. If passed and enacted, the State of Maryland would not be alone in the example of placing students' dental health care needs as a requirement. According to the Department of Legislative Services' Fiscal and Policy note, fifteen states and the District of Columbia require a certificate of dental screening or dental health prior to at least some ages or grades of students entering public school.

By requiring, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, that each student enrolled in a public elementary or secondary school to submit a certificate of dental health on a schedule established by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the Maryland General Assembly would be, correctly, charging all agencies involved in the success of children and students to collaborate, progressively, on ways to remove the social and/or financial barriers that impede access to quality dental health care for students, which would then aid in removing the aforementioned tiered negative impacts.

Submitted, individually, and with great respect,  
**K. Alexander Wallace**  
Board Member, District 7

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*To provide a great education that empowers all students and contributes to thriving communities.*

**Prince George's County Public Schools**

**Communities:**

Camp Springs  
District Heights  
Forestville  
Morningside  
Suitland  
Upper Marlboro  
Westphalia

*Secretary-Treasurer*  
**Monica E. Goldson, Ed.D.**

**ADMINISTRATION**

*Chief Executive Officer*  
**Monica E. Goldson, Ed.D.**  
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