

# 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 Anne Kaiser

Re: House Bill 15

Public Schools-Student Health-Certificate of Dental Health

Date: January 28, 2020

The Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. is in Favor of HB 15

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.

Too many children miss school due to toothaches. This bill will reinforce the importance of yearly dental checkups. By recording the presence of dental caries (decay) it will allow a gauge on treatment received or if needed treatment is being ignored. It will help to monitor neglect for children who do not receive treatment. By monitoring the dental health of students it will help to foster healthy child.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 15 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