

2021 PANDA SB 485 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Chitalia, Suhani

Position: FAV

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 Dolores Kelley
Re: SB 485 -- Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Prophylaxis
Care and Oral Health Exams
Date: February 16, 2021

Dear Chairman Kelley,

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

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.

This bill will allow for flexibility in making preventive dental appointments for Medicaid participants, and it will not add any additional financial burden to the Maryland Medicaid. Preventive dental treatment is especially important to the total health of an individual. When you allow for flexible timing of these appointments it will help families to better align their appointments; especially when transportation is an issue for this population. This practice is not foreign to the General Assembly since they have already made this type of provision for privately insured individuals in 2012.

Thank you for your consideration and ask for a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition
Carol Caiazzo, RDH President
Susan Camardese, RDH, MS, Vice President

MSDA supports SB 485 -Dental Propy.pdf

Uploaded by: Doherty, Daniel

Position: FAV



The Maryland State Dental Association Supports SB 485 – Dental Prophylaxis Care and Oral Health Exams

Respectfully submitted by Daniel T. Doherty, Jr. on behalf of the MSDA

SB 485 corrects a problem that often creates a hardship for dental patients, and which not infrequently denies them covered dental care. Currently the Maryland Dental Medicaid Program provides coverage for dental prophylaxis care and oral health exams twice a year. However, the second dental visit for this care cannot be less than 180 days since the previous treatment. Unfortunately, life does not operate on a six-month schedule of availability.

For example, last year one of our dentists had a medically compromised school child come to his office as a new patient. As the dentist later learned, it had been 5 months and three weeks since the child's last dental cleaning in another dental office. Coverage was denied by Medicaid's Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program. It is an absurd situation when care is covered if 180 days has elapsed, but not when it has been 170+ days between visits. These kinds of situations are not infrequent among students, expectant mothers, and families who are being moved by the military. It is more equitable and sensible to continue to limit these services to twice a year, but cover second treatments if they are provided at an interval of not less than 120 days.

This is the current law in the dental health insurance world. This General Assembly passed legislation in 2012 mandating this same requirement for all dental insurers regulated by the State. However, that law does not apply to Medicaid. This bill will bring Medicaid into conformity with the rest of the dental coverage world, and provide equity in dental care for children who must rely on Medicaid for their oral health needs.

For these reasons the Maryland State Dental Association urges that SB 485 be given a favorable report.

**Respectfully submitted by:
Daniel T. Doherty, Jr.
February 5, 2021**

Support SB 485 scan.pdf

Uploaded by: Doring, Charles

Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of SB 485

Medical Assistance – Dental Prophylaxis & Oral Health Exams

Senate Finance Committee

Tuesday February 16, 2021

Madam Chair, Mister Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today in support of SB 485. My name is Charles Doring and I am a general dentist in Rockville, Maryland. Along with providing dental care in an office setting, I also provide portable dentistry and I am on the medical staff of several nursing homes in Montgomery County. I also serve as the Legislative Affairs Committee Chair for the Maryland State Dental Association, was recently named to the Provider Advisory Board of the Maryland Health Smiles (Medicaid) program, and I am also a member of the Deans Faculty at our dental school, the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD).

HB 547 Medical Assistance - Dental Prophylaxis & Exams is a great bill that the Maryland Dental Association and I strongly support. Nine years ago, I worked with Senator Nancy King to pass a similar bill that states insurance companies must pay benefits for covered preventive services as long as the last service was greater than 120 days prior. This is helpful for students, expecting mothers, pre-surgical dental clearance for procedures such as organ transplants, and individuals and families of those being deployed when benefits have been denied in the past due to frequency between preventive care visits. Unfortunately, life does not operate on a 6-month schedule of availability. Last year, I had this very same issue with a Medicaid patient. A Medicaid medically compromised grade school child present to my office 5 months and 3 weeks post her last dental cleaning in another office. Preventive care benefits were denied by the program administrator, Skygen. When Senator King and I inquired to the contractor and the Maryland Department of Health, we were told by the Department of Health that Medicaid is exempt for it is not insurance (see accompanying letter). This bill corrects this loophole and allows preventive services to occur with some flexibility in scheduling. The bill should be cost neutral for it does not add to the annual maximum for preventive services provided but should cut administrative staff time in the process of handling rejected claims.

For these reasons, I ask for a favorable report on HB 547.

Sincerely, 
Charles A. Doring DDS



CHARLES A. DORING, D.D.S., F.A.G.D.
CLEMENTINA PEREZ-WEST, D.D.S.
ROBERT B. TILKIN, D.D.S., M.S., F.A.G.D.

Maryland Healthy Smiles
Grievance/Appeals
P. O. Box 393
Milwaukee, WI 53201

Dear Skygen Dental Consultant:

I am filing an authorized written appeal on behalf of the family of Maryland Healthy Smiles patient [REDACTED]

Written consent from her guardian father is attached. This appeal deals with the issue concerning the intent of Maryland Law, concerning the frequency of covered preventive dental services. This is an issue that I have previously disclosed to the Maryland Health Department, the Director of the Maryland Office of Oral Health, the Maryland State Dental Association, Skygen Representative Latia Mitchner, Maryland State Delegate Bonnie Cullison and Maryland State Senator Nancy King. I feel that Maryland Healthy Smiles administrator, Skygen, is not following Maryland Law that went into effect 10/1/12 with the passage of SB 849, legislation that was sponsored by Senator Nancy King. First, I will explain the law then, I will relate the law to my appeal.

The bill was entitled "Health Insurance-Dental Preventive Care-Coverage". Senator King was concerned when patients presented to the dental office for a covered preventive dental benefit (ie: dental cleaning) but the prior dental visit was just shy of 6 months. In my office, this has occurred when a civilian has been deployed overseas, child presenting before the start of school term, a female in their last trimester of pregnancy, may not be available after child birth for preventive services, and patient's undergoing medical procedures (ie: organ transplants) need prior dental clearance before surgery.

2012 SB 849 states:

(b) A carrier that provides coverage for dental preventive care one or more times during a plan year shall provide coverage if:

- (1) Benefits are available; and
- (2) Any other requirements for the coverage of the dental preventive care are met.

(c) If the dental preventive care is covered more than one time during the plan year, the dental preventive care:

- (1) May be provided at intervals of not less than 120 days; and
- (2) May not exceed the number of times covered by the policy or contract.

Senator King has always been a strong advocate for preventive medical and dental care. The intent of the law is to cover those instances, where preventive care is required past 120 days

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from last visit but, may not be readily available after a 6 month time. The purpose of the law is clear, timely preventive care prevents a lot of problems later down the road. The Maryland Healthy Smiles programs administered by Skygen should be good stewards of preventive oral care and provide preventive dental benefits as directed in the intent of this law.

My office Maryland Healthy Smiles coordinator Mrs. Antonia McRoy informed me that we recently had a Maryland Healthy Smiles Claim that was denied when an adolescent [REDACTED], a patient with down syndrome initially presented to our dental office for preventive care just prior to the start of school in early September (date of service 9/4/19). Her father brought her in just 10 days prior to the previous 6 month dental care at her former dental office (previous date of service 3/14/19). I could have re-scheduled her at a time where her Dad would have had to take her out of school, but she needed the care and I wanted to do the most appropriate care for her and her family.

I am appealing this case for the benefit of all the patients who need timely preventive dental care, when appropriate, not based on a 6 month benefit period. Maryland Healthy Smiles is a great program that helps those who need the utmost in dental care. I feel the rules for frequency of preventive care should conform to Maryland Law. Please contact myself or Mrs. McRoy at my office, if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Charles Doring, DDS, MAGD

cc: Mr. [REDACTED] (father)

cc: with personal information removed:

Senator Nancy King

Senator Clarence Lam

Delegate Bonnie Cullison

Dr. Debony Hughes, Director Maryland Office of Oral Health

Ms. Clare Seibert, Maryland Department of Health

Ms. Katie Neral, Maryland Department of Health

Maryland State Dental Association

Maryland Dental Action Coalition



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

January 15, 2020

Dr. Charles Doring
North Bethesda Dental Associates
11400 Rockville Pike, Suite 509
Rockville, MD 20852-3024

Dear Dr. Doring:

Thank you for your correspondence to Senator Nancy King regarding the frequency of coverage for preventive dental care for the Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program. Senator King has asked the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to review your concern.

MDH recognizes your commitment to Medicaid recipients and your efforts in helping Senator King pass the 2012 SB 849 legislation. MDH has reviewed the information you sent, and determined that the Dental Benefits Administrator, SKYGEN USA, is not in violation of 2012 SB 849. This legislation does not apply to the Medicaid Program; therefore, this legislation does not apply to preventive care covered by the Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program. MDH does allow for Medicaid-eligible children to receive dental preventive care at frequencies less than six months under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program as long as they are medically necessary according to COMAR 10.09.05, Dental Services.

Thank you for your continued support and dedicated service to members of the Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program. If you have additional questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Katie Neral, Deputy Director of the Medicaid Acute Care Administration, at 410-767-3459 or katie.neral@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Schrader
Chief Operating Officer and Medicaid Director

2021 MDAC HB 547 House Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Elliott, Robyn

Position: FAV



10015 Old Columbia Road, Suite B-215
Columbia, Maryland 21046
www.mdac.us

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 547 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Prophylaxis Care and Oral Health Exams

Hearing Date: February 9, 2021

Position: Support

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition strongly supports *House Bill 547 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Prophylaxis Care and Oral Health Exams*. The bill will provide more flexibility to Medicaid enrollees to obtain critical preventive dental services. The Maryland General Assembly already established similar flexibility for privately insured individuals through HB 1356 in 2012.

The Maryland Medical Assistance Program covers two dental cleanings (prophylaxis) and oral health exams a year in a preventative services visit. Currently, Medicaid participants must wait at least 6-months between appointments. The bill would allow Medicaid participants to obtain preventative services just 4-months after their last appointment. Total coverage would still be capped at two preventative service visits a year, but there would be more flexibility in the timing of appointments. This flexibility will help individuals and families facing challenges such as:

- Families who are trying to align the appointments of siblings;
- People with mobility challenges who need to avoid traveling in the winter to appointments;
- People facing significant family or work obligations in 6-months and need to obtain care a little earlier; and
- Pregnant women who want to schedule an appointment before their due date.

Maryland Medicaid spends over \$10 million a year on avoidable emergency room visits for dental conditions.ⁱ We should take common-sense steps, such as HB 547, to make it easier for individuals to obtain regular preventative services. The Maryland General Assembly has already granted more flexibility for coverage in private dental insurance. We ask for a favorable report on HB 457, so that the same flexibility is extended to people with Medicaid. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders

ⁱ https://www.mdac.us/file_download/inline/57cb39db-b4f4-4cdb-8829-f062e74fe36c

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders

2021 SB 485 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Horner, Mark

Position: FAV

**R. Mark Horner, D.D.S.
7 Woodward Court
Reisterstown, MD 21136-1835
District 10
mark7w21136@gmail.com
Home:(410) 517-1611
Cell/Text: (410) 833-4430**

Re: SB 485

**Maryland Medical Assistance Program –
Dental Prophylaxis Care and Oral Health Exams**

Position: Favorable

As a general dental provider for more than 30 years, I am excited about and fully supportive of this bill. Reducing the eligibility period from 180 days down to 120 days between dental exams is a useful tool to help ensure that children receive routine dental visits and that dentists receive compensation for the services provided. Because the bill does not change the eligibility for 2 visits per calendar year, there is no expected increase in costs for services provided. The bill simply reduces denials for payment when a patient is seen earlier than the current 180 day minimum period.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Mark Horner, DDS

Sincerely,

R. Mark Horner

SB485 - Benevis - Testimony in Support.pdf

Uploaded by: McDonough, Caitlin

Position: FAV



The Delores Kelley
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 485 - MARYLAND MEDICAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – DENTAL PROPHYLAXIS CARE AND ORAL HEALTH
EXAMS

Benevis is a dental support organization providing non-clinical support services to dentist offices in Maryland. Benevis is dedicated to its mission to improve access to dentistry by providing the highest quality non-clinical services to some of the nation's leading dental practices. In Maryland, the nine dental practices Benevis supports specialize in providing Medicaid dental services. Those practices are one of the largest providers of Medicaid dental services in the state, providing just under 20% of the Medicaid services statewide and approximately 40% of the Medicaid services in the Baltimore City region. A key part of supporting Medicaid dental practices is ensuring that patients have reasonable access to essential preventative care, and for that reason Benevis supports Senate Bill 485.

SB485 creates parity between Medicaid and private dental insurance coverage for fundamental dental services. One major challenge to Medicaid dental providers is the low "show" rate for patient appointments. This is often a reflection of scheduling, transportation and other factors that disproportionately impact Medicaid patient populations. Increasing flexibility for Marylanders facing these challenges is an important step toward increasing access to key services, particularly for families seeking pediatric care.

Benevis thanks Delegate Lewis and the members of the Committee for their leadership on dental health matters and their ongoing action to implement policy that provides fair and full access to dental services for all Marylanders. Benevis urges the Committee's favorable consideration of SB485.

SB485 - MDHA - Testimony in Support .pdf

Uploaded by: McDonough, Caitlin

Position: FAV



The Delores Kelley
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 16, 2021

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 485 – MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM – DENTAL PROPHYLAXIS CARE AND ORAL HEALTH EXAMS**

Dear Chair Pendergrass:

The Maryland Dental Hygienists Association (MDHA) is an organization seeking to improve the public's total health by advancing the art and science of dental hygiene, including ensuring access to quality oral health care, increasing awareness of the cost-effective benefits of preventative dental services, promoting the highest standards of dental hygiene education, licensure, practice and research, and representing and promoting the interests of dental hygienists in Maryland. In keeping with that mission, MDHA takes this opportunity to voice its support for Senate Bill 485 and the flexibility it creates for essential dental services under Maryland's Medicaid program.

SB485 would allow a grace period of up to 120 days for patients seeking coverage of routine dental services, specifically dental prophylaxis and oral health exams, under Maryland's Medicaid program. The bill would create parity of coverage for these important services between Medicaid patients and those who receive care under private dental insurance. SB485 is consistent with MDHA's ongoing mission to promote and provide widespread access to preventative dental services for all patients, including those receiving services under Medicaid. The bill is particularly helpful for working parents who must balance difficult schedules with the health needs of their families. This Committee has a strong history of recognizing and promoting the benefits of primary and preventive healthcare, and SB485 is another step in that direction.

MDHA thanks Senator Augustine and the members of the Committee for their leadership on dental health matters and looks forward to working with all stakeholders to improve oral health in Maryland. MDHA urges the Committee's favorable consideration of Senate Bill 485.

MRHA SB485 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program –

Uploaded by: Orosz, Samantha

Position: FAV



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association

To the Finance Committee

February 16, 2021

Senate Bill 485 Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Prophylaxis Care and Oral Health Exams

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, Senator Augustine, and members of the Finance Committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 485 Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Prophylaxis Care and Oral Health Exams.

MRHA supports this legislation that prohibits a limit on the frequency of dental prophylaxis care or oral health exams that requires the dental prophylaxis care or oral health exams to be provided at an interval greater than 120 days within a plan year.

Rural communities suffer from chronic lack of oral and dental care services, and this legislation would increase the available number of services provided to patients that are desperately needed in these communities. It is imperative to bridge gaps in accessing these desperately needed oral and dental health services in rural Maryland.

MRHA's mission is to educate and advocate for the optimal health and wellness of rural communities and their residents. Membership is comprised of health departments, hospitals, community health centers, health professionals, and community members in rural Maryland.

Rural Maryland represents almost 80 percent of Maryland's land area and 25% of its population. Of Maryland's 24 counties, 18 are considered rural by the state, and with a population of over 1.6 million they differ greatly from the urban areas in the state.

And while Maryland is one of the richest states, there is great disparity in how wealth is distributed. The greatest portion of wealth resides around the Baltimore/Washington Region; while further away from the I-95 corridor, differences in the social and economic environment are very apparent.

MRHA believes this legislation is important to support our rural communities and we thank you for your consideration.

Lara Wilson, Executive Director, larawilson@mdruralhealth.org, 410-693-6988

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Uploaded by: Bennardi, Maryland Department of Health /Office of Governmen

Position: INFO



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 485 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Prophylaxis Care and Oral Health Exams – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Kelley and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is submitting this letter of information on Senate Bill (SB) 485 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Prophylaxis Care and Oral Health Exams. SB 485 would require MDH to lift the current requirement that prophylaxis care or oral health exams be provided at an interval greater than 120 days within a plan year. The bill would take effect on January 1, 2022.

Maryland Medicaid covers dental services for children, pregnant women, adults in the Rare and Expensive Case Management (REM) Program, and former foster care youth up to age 26. Benefits for these populations are not subject to a financial cap. MDH also operates an Adult Dental Pilot Program for adults 21 through 64 years of age enrolled in both Medicaid and Medicare. Services through the Adult Dental Pilot Program are subject to an \$800 per person annual cap. MDH currently limits the frequency for certain prophylactic services to once every six months.

For FY22, MDH estimates that SB 485 would have a fiscal impact of \$2.3 million, subject to a 54% federal match (\$1.2 million in Federal funds, \$1 million in State funds). The cost for FY23 is estimated to be \$4.7 million (\$2.6 million Federal funds, \$2.2 million State funds). Costs would increase each subsequent fiscal year. MDH expects the fiscal impact will be largely due to increased utilization of services by children.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at webster.ye@maryland.gov / (410) 260-3190 or Heather Shek, Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs at heather.shek@maryland.gov and at the same phone number.

Sincerely,

Webster Ye
Assistant Secretary, Health Policy