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**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 522 – Public Health – Commission on Universal Health Care

**Hearing Date:** February 27, 2021

**Position:** Letter of Information

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The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) would like to provide this letter of information regarding *Senate Bill 522 – Public Health – Commission on Universal Health Care*. The bill establishes a commission to study and make recommendations on a universal health care coverage system in Maryland.

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition urges inclusion of dental coverage in any health care initiative, including the Commission contemplated in this legislation. The bill makes multiple references to “health care services” and “health care provider.” This terminology may be inclusive of dental, depending on its legal interpretation. However, historically health care coverage has often excluded dental coverage. The Maryland General Assembly has begun to change this landscape in Maryland with strong support of expansion of coverage in Medicaid and the private sector through the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange.

As discussions about this bill and health care reform move forward, we urge the inclusion of dental coverage in the discussion. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

***Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders***