

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