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Testimony in Opposition of HB 710

Maryland Medical Assistance Programs – Dental Providers & Dental Student - Reimbursement

House Health & Government Operations Committee

Tuesday February 9, 2021

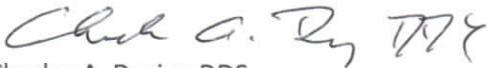
Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and members of the House Health & Government Operations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written today in opposition of HB 710. My name is Charles Doring and I am general dentist in Rockville Maryland. Along with providing dental care in an office setting, I also provide portable dentistry and I am on the medical staff of several nursing homes in Montgomery County. I am also the Legislative Affairs Committee Chair for the Maryland State Dental Association, recently named to the Provider Advisory Board of the Maryland Health Smiles (Medicaid), and I am also a member of the Deans Faculty at our dental school, the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD).

The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners, Maryland State Dental Association and I oppose HB 710 for a laundry list of reasons. The bill allows clinics/dental offices to bill Medicaid for procedures done by unlicensed dental students. The particular issues I have with this bill are:

- 1) As a Deans Faculty member at our University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD), I am very concerned about the lack of vetting of the teaching skill of the supervising dentist.
- 2) There are no limits placed on what procedures the student can perform. Students could potentially perform procedures that they have not been trained to do but told to do by the supervising dentist. This could be a 1st year or 4th year student; the bill gives no limits.
- 3) There is liability to the dental student and dental school in a situation for which they have no control.
- 4) There is no requirement in the bill to disclose to the patient or the patient's guardian that treatment is being performed by a dental student.
- 5) The dental students home school could be across the country; the student could be on break and the home school not know about the externship.
- 6) Dean Mark Reynolds of UMSOD has told me that I was the first to have any discussion about HB710/SB465 and the proponents have not even approached our dental school concerning this bill.
- 7) The potential for entrepreneurs to start are using the dental students as a profit center. Dean Reynolds said it would be better to use reimbursed funds to help students with transplantation and housing to provide care at these clinics.

For these reasons, I ask the committee for an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

  
Charles A. Doring DDS