

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chairwoman, Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
email: shane.pendergrass@house.state.md.us

RE: HB 710

Dear Delegate Pendergrass,

The University of Maryland School of Dentistry opposes HB 710, which would require the Maryland Department of Health, under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, to reimburse a dental provider for services rendered by a student of dentistry who is engaged in an educational program at a school of dentistry. The delivery of clinical services in a practice setting, outside an educational institution, raises serious concerns about satisfying professional accreditation standards, including calibration of supervising practitioners, attending dentist-to-student ratios, and counting clinical experiences toward graduation requirements, practice liability (faculty assume malpractice liability in Maryland), and public safety. With respect to the latter, the bill does not address minimum pre-requisite training and clinical competencies essential for protecting the public or the critical disclosure of provider (student) status in obtaining informed patient consent.

As dean, my office was not approached to provide input on the reasonable practicability of private or corporate practice settings in dental education. I am more than willing to engage in future conversations and, as always, the School of Dentistry stands ready to assist in any way possible to expand services and access to dental care in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns related to HB 710.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Reynolds, DDS, PhD
Dean

cc: The Honorable Susan Krebs