



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

*Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners  
Spring Grove Hospital Center  
Benjamin Rush Building  
55 Wade Avenue/Tulip Drive  
Catonsville, Maryland 21228*

March 31, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

**Re: SB 836 - State Board of Dental Examiners-Disciplinary Action-Disclosure Requirements and Licensee Profiles - Support as Amended**

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners is submitting this support as amended position paper for Senate Bill (SB) 836-State Board of Dental Examiners-Disciplinary Action-Disclosure Requirements and Licensee Profiles. As amended the bill deletes a number of proposed requirements for the Dental Board that were better suited for physicians than for dentists and dental hygienists. Those requirements included a mandate that the Dental Board disclose its records to disciplinary committees of all facilities where dentists and dental hygienists practice, or an entity that employs dentists or dental hygienists. The bill also required the Board to disclose complaints to facilities or entities that employed dentists and dental hygienists. Finally, the bill required the Board to make records available to researchers who requested records which would otherwise not have been available under the Maryland Public Information Act, at great expense to the Board.

As amended the bill creates a State Dental Board Work Group staffed by the Department of Legislative Services to consider the Dental Board's complaint process. The study group is composed primarily of members of the General Assembly, Dental Board members, members of organized dentistry, consumer advocates, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Health, or their designees. The Study Group is required to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

The Board supports the bill as amended. Since the great majority of dentists are solo practitioners and are not employed by, or work in a facility, the provisions of the bill were inapplicable to

dentists. Instead, the Board looks forward to working with the work group and the General Assembly to improve the Board's internal processes given the Board's available resources.

I hope that this information is helpful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at 301-367-2352, [jgoldsm217@comcast.net](mailto:jgoldsm217@comcast.net), or Dr. Arpana Verma, the Board's Legislative Committee Chair at 240-498-8159, [asverma93@gmail.com](mailto:asverma93@gmail.com). In addition, the Board's Executive Director, Mr. Frank McLaughlin may be reached at 443-878-5253, [frank.mclaughlin@maryland.gov](mailto:frank.mclaughlin@maryland.gov).

The opinion of the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners expressed in this support as amended position does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the administration.

Sincerely,

**JAMES P. GOLDSMITH, D.M.D.**

James P. Goldsmith, D.M.D.  
Board President