



10015 Old Columbia Road, Suite B-215  
Columbia, Maryland 21046  
www.mdac.us

**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill Number:** SB 796 – Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and  
Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements

**Hearing Date:** March 30, 2020

**Position:** Support

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition supports *Senate Bill 796 – Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and Maryland Health Care Commission – Reporting Requirements*. MDAC supports efforts to increase the diversity of the health care workforce, including dental providers. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to address health disparities. There is stark evidence of the impact of inequities in oral health. For example, the rate of untreated tooth decay among children age 2 to 9 points to wide gaps for Black and brown communities: 67.9% for non-Hispanic Black children, 70.5% for Mexican American children, and 57.2 % for non-Hispanic white children.<sup>1</sup>

This legislation will support workforce planning by increasing the collection of data through the health occupation boards. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

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<sup>1</sup> Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General, 2020.  
<https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2017-10/hck1ocv.%40www.surgeon.fullrpt.pdf>

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