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Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 470 – Public Health – Commission on Universal Health Care

Hearing Date: March 11, 2021

Position: Letter of Information

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) would like to provide this letter of information regarding *House Bill 470 – Public Health – Commission on Universal Health Care*. The bill establishes a commission to study and make recommendations on a universal health care coverage system in Maryland.

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition urges inclusion of dental coverage in any health care initiative, including the Commission contemplated in this legislation. The bill makes multiple references to “health care services” and “health care provider.” This terminology may be inclusive of dental, depending on its legal interpretation. However, historically health care coverage has often excluded dental coverage. The Maryland General Assembly has begun to change this landscape in Maryland with strong support of expansion of coverage in Medicaid and the private sector through the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange.

As discussions about this bill and health care reform move forward, we urge the inclusion of dental coverage in the discussion. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders