



The Honorable Shane Pendergrass  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
House Office Building, Room 240  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 547 - MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM – DENTAL PROPHYLAXIS CARE AND ORAL HEALTH EXAMS**

Benevis is a dental support organization providing non-clinical support services to dentist offices in Maryland. Benevis is dedicated to its mission to improve access to dentistry by providing the highest quality non-clinical services to some of the nation's leading dental practices. In Maryland, the nine dental practices Benevis supports specialize in providing Medicaid dental services. Those practices are one of the largest providers of Medicaid dental services in the state, providing just under 20% of the Medicaid services statewide and approximately 40% of the Medicaid services in the Baltimore City region. A key part of supporting Medicaid dental practices is ensuring that patients have reasonable access to essential preventative care, and for that reason Benevis supports House Bill 547.

HB547 creates parity between Medicaid and private dental insurance coverage for fundamental dental services. One major challenge to Medicaid dental providers is the low "show" rate for patient appointments. This is often a reflection of scheduling, transportation and other factors that disproportionately impact Medicaid patient populations. Increasing flexibility for Marylanders facing these challenges is an important step toward increasing access to key services, particularly for families seeking pediatric care.

Benevis thanks Delegate Lewis and the members of the Committee for their leadership on dental health matters and their ongoing action to implement policy that provides fair and full access to dental services for all Marylanders. Benevis urges the Committee's favorable consideration of HB547.