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Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 1148 – Secretary of Health – School-Based Health Centers – Guidelines and Administration of Grants

Hearing Date: March 2, 2020

Position: Support

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) strongly supports *House Bill 1148 – Secretary of Health – School-Based Health Centers – Guidelines and Administration of Grants*. The bill transfers the State’s school-based health center (SBHC) program from the Maryland State Department of Education to the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health under the Maryland Department of Health.

MDAC believes that SBHCs can play an important role in expanding access to dental care for children. Located in schools with a high concentration of students in poverty, SBHCs are uniquely positioned to reach children who may not have regular access to a medical or dental home. The State will be better positioned to realize this public health potential if SBHC policy is set by the Maryland Department of Health. MDH has more expertise in oral health programming than the Maryland State Department of Education.

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 or (443) 926-3443.

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders