

Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

5788 Endless Ocean Way, Columbia Maryland 21045

Support

House Bill 701- Child Abuse and Neglect – Training of Health Care Professionals

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 30, 2021

The Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. is in favor of HB 701.

We represent the Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition (Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness). We were established in 2000, our mission is “To create an atmosphere of understanding in dentistry and other professional communities which will result in the prevention of abuse and neglect through early identification and appropriate intervention for those who have been abused or neglected.” Dentists and Dental Hygienists (Dental Professionals) are mandated by the State of Maryland to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect. Our coalition has established a Continuing Education (CE) course that educates Dental Professionals and other how to recognize, report, or refer. The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners has deemed this course as a mandatory CE requirement for Dentists and Hygienists to renew their licenses. We also address domestic violence, elder abuse and human trafficking in our CE course.

Because our mission is training dental professionals on recognizing and addressing abuse and neglect, we support HB 701. We appreciate that the Sponsor incorporated a provision that recognized that some boards, including the Board of Dental Examiners, already require training courses.

We ask for a favorable vote on this bill. If we can be of any further assistance, please contact Carol Caiazzo at carolrdhhygiene@verizon.net.