



February 23, 2022

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 571 – SALES AND USE TAX – ORAL
HYGIENE PRODUCTS – EXEMPTIONS

Benevis is a dental support organization providing non-clinical support services to dental practices across 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, with those practices serving a patient population that is more than 80% Medicaid. Together, these practices make up one of the largest providers of Medicaid dental services in the state, providing just under 20% of the Medicaid dental services statewide and approximately 40% of the Medicaid dental services in the Baltimore region. As a major Medicaid dental provider in the State, we strongly support any efforts by the State to reduce the cost of dental services and oral healthcare for Maryland's most vulnerable populations.

Over the past decade, the cost of providing dental services has increase substantially, particularly for practices specializing in serving Medicaid populations who cannot always mitigate cost due to fixed reimbursement rates. Senate Bill 571 provides one additional tool that these practices can use to not only decrease the cost of the services they provide, but also promote better oral health practices in their patients, helping to reduce the overall need for costly restorative services. Additionally, Senate 571 helps recognize, in statute, oral health as an essential part of healthcare, which is a vital part of promoting it a key aspect of Maryland's overall health.

Benevis takes this opportunity to thank Senator Klausmeier and this Committee for their leadership on promoting and supporting Maryland's oral health efforts and urges the Committee's favorable report of Senate Bill 571.