



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

February 23, 2022

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT - SENATE BILL 571 - SALES AND USE TAX – ORAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS - EXEMPTION

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Dental Hygienists Association (MDHA) is an organization seeking to improve the public's total health by advancing the art and science of dental hygiene, including ensuring access to quality oral health care, increasing awareness of the cost-effective benefits of preventative dental services, promoting the highest standards of dental hygiene education, licensure, practice and research, and representing and promoting the interests of dental hygienists in Maryland. In keeping with that mission, MDHA takes this opportunity to voice its support for Senate Bill 571, which would exemption oral hygiene products, including toothbrushes, toothpaste, toothpowders, mouthwash, and dental floss from the State sales and use tax.

Despite overwhelming evidence that oral health plays a key role in overall health, it is often overlooked and deprioritized. In light of this, MDHA supports any legislation that would make this important tools for achieving strong, regular oral health care less costly and more readily available to both individuals and to oral health professionals in the State. SB571 would not only take direct steps to increase access to these products, but also recognize their use and the associated oral health benefits as vital to overall healthcare. In recent years, MDHA has prioritized the ability of our members to get out in the community and provide essential preventative dental services to those who, for whatever reason, have barriers to care. SB571 would provide an important cost-saving benefit to these hygienists as they work to provide services and education patients about the importance of preventative care.

MDHA thanks Senator Klausmeier and the members of the Committee for their leadership on dental health matters and looks forward to working with all stakeholders to promote policies to advance oral health care in Maryland. Thank you for your consideration and we urge the Committee's favorable consideration of Senate Bill 571.