

SB571 - Benevis - Testimony in Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Caitlin McDonough

Position: FAV



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.

SB571- MDHA - Testimony in Support .pdf

Uploaded by: Caitlin McDonough

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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.

Senate Bill 571- Support Letter-pdf.pdf

Uploaded by: John Andryszak

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February 23, 2022

Honorable Guy J. Guzzone
Chairman, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 571-Sales and Use Tax-Oral Hygiene Products Exemption

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Tax Committee:

On behalf of my client, GSK Consumer Healthcare, I am before you today to testify in support of Senate Bill 571. GSK Consumer Healthcare is one of the largest manufacturers of healthcare products in the world. Its oral health division develops and markets a wide range of science-based oral products, including Aquafresh, Sensodyne, Anbesol and Polident to name a few.

The reason for GSK Oral Healthcare's support for this bill is quite simple. One of the goals of the Company, as stated on its website, is to make the world's mouths healthier. Providing an exemption to the sales tax for oral healthcare products will, in some small way, help make healthcare products more available to families and individuals least able to afford them.

In difficult financial times, oral healthcare products often are viewed as less essential by those with limited incomes. This bill provides a benefit, albeit a small one, to those individuals. Every little bit helps.

GSK Consumer Healthcare is not before you today because it believes this exemption will increase the sale of its products. Rather, GSK is before you in support of this bill because it will help improve the oral health of Marylanders.

For these reasons we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 571.

Respectfully yours,

John A Andryszak

2022 MDAC SB 571 Senate Side .pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Backley

Position: FAV



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Committee: Senate Budget and Taxation Hearing

Bill Number: Senate Bill 571 – Sales and Use Tax – Oral Hygiene Products – Exemption

Hearing Date: February 23, 2022

Position: Support

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) strongly supports *Senate Bill 571 – Sales Use and Tax – Oral Hygiene Products -- Exemption*. The bill will exempt essential dental hygiene products from the sales and use tax.

Maintaining good oral health is essential to one’s overall health. Access to toothbrushes, toothpaste, tooth powder, dental floss, and other dental hygiene products will allow Marylanders to maintain their oral health and prevent serious disease and illnesses. Currently, Maryland exempts other health care products such as over-the-counter medications, baby oil, baby powder, and feminine hygiene products from its sales and use tax.

Tooth decay is prominent in both children and adults. 23% of children between 2 and 11 and about 26 % of adults have untreated tooth decay.ⁱ The use of dental hygiene products can help prevent this. Oral health professionals recommend the following:

- Replacing toothbrushes every three months
- Using approximately .25 grams of toothpaste when brushing your teeth

However, using large amounts of toothpaste and frequently replacing toothbrushes has cost implications that can be prohibitive for lower-income families and individuals.ⁱⁱ

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders

By eliminating a financial barrier to these essential dental hygiene products, individuals can prevent tooth decay, cavities, and gum disease. Maryland should take this simple step to make these products more affordable.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide additional information, please contact Suhani Chitalia at schitalia@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://www.preferredentalcaresanrafael.com/how-to-treat-and-prevent-tooth-decay-in-children-and-adults/#:~:text=Tooth%20decay%20can%20lead%20to,for%20acids%20to%20eat%20away>.

ⁱⁱ <http://www.emro.who.int/emhj-volume-24-2018/volume-24-issue-10/global-recommendations-to-prevent-tooth-decay-must-be-evidence-based.html>

MD Catholic Conference_FAV_SB0571.pdf

Uploaded by: MJ Kraska

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

February 23, 2022

**SB 571
Sales and Use Tax - Oral Hygiene Products – Exemption**

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference (“Conference”) represents the public-policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch)dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

Senate Bill 571 would provide an exemption from the sales and use tax for the sale of oral hygiene products; and generally relating to a sales and use tax exemption for oral hygiene products.

The Catholic Church has a strong interest in ensuring access to quality, affordable, and life-giving health care for all. As such, the Conference supports efforts to improve access to health care options for those who need it, as every person has a basic right to adequate health care arising from the Church’s teaching on the sanctity and dignity of human life.

Senate Bill 571 aims to achieve more affordable oral health care products within Maryland. Oral care is an important part of an individual’s overall physical health and providing it for those who are less likely to be able to afford it is central to maintaining a person’s wellbeing and advancing their health. It also closes a crucial gap for those who are unable to afford dental services, most often the vulnerable and poverty-stricken in our communities. Providing even limited dental coverage will not only improve overall health, but also open doors by way of job opportunities and other societal benefits.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, urges you to support Senate Bill 571.