

Written Testimony on SB 611
Support with Amendments
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My name is Dr. Stephen Dargan, a practicing dentist of 44 years in Prince Frederick, and the current president of the Maryland State Dental Association.

The MSDA supports with amendments, SB 611. Our lobbyist, Dan Doherty, has submitted amendments to the bill which we believe will help better address the issues that several members of the General Assembly have with the functioning of the Board of Dental Examiners.

While there have been a number of concerns that I, and the MSDA, have with the bill as currently written, the changes in the nomination process may be most concerning. The current process of ballot voting for nominees by state organizations, like the MSDA and others associated with a national professional dental organization, is the best way to assure that the most capable candidate is recognized and brought forward to the governor for appointment to the dental board. In addition, every licensed dentist has an opportunity to be a candidate by simply returning the nomination papers with 10 signatures from other Maryland licensed dentists.

Other areas of concern, as outlined by the MSDA amendments in Mr. Doherty's testimony, are the proposed composition of the board, parameters for training of the board, and the section on summary suspensions.

While agreeing with the premise for several sections of SB 611, we hope to be able to support an amended version.