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**Committee:** Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 714 - Health Occupations - Dental Assistants - Certification and Regulation

**Hearing Date:** February 22, 2022

**Position:** Support with Amendment

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The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) support with amendment *Senate Bill 714 – Health Occupations – Dental Assistants – Certification and Regulation*. The bill establishes a statutory framework for two tracks of dental assistants: certified and uncertified. Certified dental assistants could play expanded role in providing services.

MDAC supports ensuring everyone in a care team can work at the top of their certification, license, or training. This principle supports greater efficiency within dental care teams. With greater efficiency, dental providers could serve more people and alleviate the impact of the shortage of dental providers in underserved regions, such as the Eastern Shore.

We understand that there are ongoing discussions among stakeholders on training standards for certified dental assistants. We support standards that ensure certified dental assistants are competent to provide the care within their statutory scope. Such standards are important for patient safety.

We ask for a favorable report with the amendments that come from stakeholder discussions about training standards. We would be happy to contribute to that discussion. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

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