

SB714_CharlesDoring_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Charles Doring

Position: FAV

Charles A. Doring DDS
North Bethesda Dental Associates
11400 Rockville Pike #509
Rockville, MD. 20852
301-881-7646
February 20, 2022

Written Testimony in Support of 2022 SB 714

Expanded Function Dental Assistants

Submitted by Charles Doring DDS

Dear members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. My name is Dr. Charles Doring and I am providing written testimony in support of SB 714. I am a general dentist in Montgomery County, Legislative Affairs Committee Chair of the Maryland State Dental Association (MSDA) and a Maryland Healthy Smiles (Medicaid) provider. I am also a Member of the Maryland Healthy Smiles Provider Advisory Board and a member of Maryland Task Force on Oral Health.

National Dental Assistant Recognition Week is March 6-12, 2022. I can think of no better way to recognize the dental team members who comfort those patients who are fearful, are responsible for dental practices for following Center for Disease Control protocols, and skillfully provide 4-handed dentistry, than passage of SB 714.

My written testimony will hopefully answer the questions/concerns raised by all parties of interest. By resolution of the MSDA House of Delegates in September 2020, an ad hoc committee was formed to review the current scope of practice of the dental auxiliary workforce and make recommendation back to the MSDA House of Delegates. The ad hoc committee, under the direction of Dr. Eric Morse, did an extensive review of scope of dental auxiliaries as to what is the current scope, what is done in other jurisdictions, and made recommendations on how expanded function dental assistants can help provide better quality care for the patients of Maryland. In September 2021, the MSDA House of Delegates reviewed these recommendations and approved a resolution that directed the MSDA Legislative Affairs Committee to draft bill language as you see here. Since the initial bill drafting in November 2021, the MSDA Legislative Affairs Committee has been very transparent with parties of interest soliciting input from groups such as the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners (MSBDE), Maryland Dental Assistants Association, Maryland Dental Hygienists Association, Maryland Dental Action Coalition, and the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB.org).

One concern raised has been related to education and testing to become certified in the 4 duties outlined in SB 714. DANB already has the certifying education curriculum goals and testing programs for Expanded Function Dental Assistants (EFDA). They have not been utilized in Maryland because these duties under authorization and direct supervision of a dentist are not yet authorized in Maryland. As background here is DANB's charge:

The Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) was founded in 1980 and is the national certification board for dental assistants. More than 37,000 dental assistants are currently DANB certified nationwide. DANB, a nonprofit organization, is a member of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence. DANB's CDA and COA certification programs are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

DANB understands the importance of impartiality and potential conflicts of interests in carrying out its certification activities. Being impartial, and being perceived to be impartial, is necessary for DANB to be able to deliver credible certification programs that provide confidence to our candidates and certificants, our communities of interest, and the public. In order to obtain and maintain confidence, DANB will, at all times, be able to demonstrate that our decisions are based on objective evidence and that our decisions have not been improperly influenced by other interests or by other parties. The above statement is made by DANB in the interest of transparency and so that our candidates and certificants, our communities of interest, and the public may be aware of our intentions.

Another issue raised by the MSBDE has been its own workload issues registering EFDA's who have successfully completed course work and testing. SB 714 allows the MSBDE to collect registration fees to compensate for additional staff time required.

Lastly, some dental hygienists express concern about the duty of "coronal polishing" and the possibility that dental hygienists may be replaced by dental assistants. Coronal polishing is very different and limited as compared to a dental prophylaxis and the two should not be confused. SB 714 does not permit use of any type of scalers to remove dental plaque and dental calculus built up on the teeth that the dental hygienist would remove, usually prior to coronal polishing to remove surface extrinsic stain on the teeth. Dentistry has evolved into a team profession where dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants all have important functions in providing the best patient care. In discussions with DANB last week, I obtained the following information on how other states handle coronal polishing and have attached that information for your review.

For the above reasons, I ask that SB 714 be given a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Doring DDS

Dear Dr. Doring and Dan,

My colleague and I reviewed our most up-to-date compilation of excerpts from statutes and rules related to the practice of dental assisting, and we have counted 41 states that expressly allow some level of dental assistant to perform coronal polishing:

1. Alaska
2. Arizona
3. Arkansas
4. California
5. Colorado
6. Connecticut
7. Florida
8. Georgia
9. Illinois
10. Indiana
11. Iowa
12. Kansas
13. Kentucky
14. Louisiana
15. Maine
16. Massachusetts
17. Minnesota
18. Mississippi
19. Missouri
20. Montana
21. Nebraska
22. Nevada
23. New Hampshire
24. New Mexico
25. North Carolina
26. North Dakota
27. Ohio
28. Oklahoma
29. Oregon
30. Pennsylvania
31. Rhode Island
32. South Carolina
33. South Dakota
34. Tennessee
35. Texas
36. Utah
37. Vermont
38. Virginia
39. Washington
40. West Virginia
41. Wyoming

In addition, there are five states that specifically prohibit delegation of coronal polishing to dental assistants: DC, Hawaii, Maryland, New Jersey, and New York.

The remaining states do not specifically address the issue.

If you need additional details about requirements in any of those states, please let me know and I will be happy to provide more information.

Have a great weekend!

Best regards,
Katherine

Katherine Landsberg
Director, Government Relations
klandsberg@danb.org

Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.
444 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60611
P: 312-280-3431
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Testimony in Support of SB 714 Letter Head.pdf

Uploaded by: Daniel Doherty

Position: FAV



SB 714

Daniel T. Doherty, Jr.

Favorable

The Maryland State Dental Association Supports SB 714 – Health Occupations – Dental Assistants – Certification and Regulation

It is a prime goal of the MSDA and its members to provide quality dental care to their dental patients in an effective and efficient manner. This requires a coordinated working relationship of the dental team – the dentist, dental hygienist, and dental assistant. In furtherance of this goal the MSDA established an Ad Hoc Committee in 2020 to review expanded functions for dental assistants. This Committee met throughout the Fall of 2020, and the Winter, Spring and early Summer of 2021. It looked at the regulatory provisions of the laws in other states, received input from educators and practitioners in the various dental specialties, consulted public health officers and more. The Committee then analyzed, discussed and debated procedures which it concluded could be safely provided by dental assistants under the direct supervision of a dentist. The conclusions of that Committee were then submitted in a written report to the MSDA’s Board of Trustees and its House of Delegates. In September 2021 the MSDA House of Delegates passed a resolution directing that legislation be pursued that would certify dental assistants to perform four expanded functions. This legislative proposal is the result of that process.

SB 714 establishes a comprehensive statutory regulatory process for certifying and regulating dental assistants. The bill specifies the procedures that a dental assistant may perform without being certified (page 3, lines 2 – 20). Each of these procedures are currently authorized in regulations adopted by the State Board of Dental Examiners (SBDE). The bill then specifies the procedures for which the dental assistant may be certified. All of these functions may be performed by a certified dental assistant **only if** the supervising dentist gives specific instructions to perform the intraoral procedure, and directly supervises the certified dental assistant while performing the procedure. The intraoral procedures for which a dental assistant must be certified to perform are: 1) assisting in orthodontic procedures authorized by the SBDE (this certification is currently authorized under Board regulations); 2) placing dental sealants; 3) coronal polishing, solely for stain and biofilm removal, as part of dental prophylaxis (but not a complete prophylaxis), or before esthetic and cementation procedures; 4) applying silver diamine fluoride; and 5) monitoring nitrous oxide. (Page 3, line 21 through page 4, line 6).

SB 714 provides that the Board shall approve the educational courses related to each intraoral procedure, require that the applicant have the appropriate certification for each procedure from the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB), and pass any examination

required by the Board. The bill also establishes, in addition the requirements for certification, the typical statutory provisions dealing with matters such as fees, term of certification, renewals etc.

SB 714 also adds to the grounds for disciplinary action against a licensed dentist. It specifies that a dentist may be disciplined for: 1) allowing a dental assistant to assist in an unauthorized manner; 2) failing to specifically instruct the certified dental assistant to perform an authorized intraoral procedure; or 3) failing to provide direct supervision of a dental assistant. In this way, if there is a violation of these statutory requirements, it is the supervising dentist who is culpable, and thus subject to disciplinary action.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, all health care providers have been confronted with personnel shortages for a variety of reasons. In addition, many dental patients did not receive their normal scheduled dental care, especially essential preventive care. This has resulted in difficulty for patients getting timely appointments due to the increased demand for dental care coupled with the diminished dental health of patients necessitating more extensive treatment. To meet these patient needs, dentistry needs to deliver care more efficiently by utilizing more effectively the entire dental team. HB 714 assists in accomplishing an improved, effective and safe delivery of dental care by the entire dental team – dentist, dental hygienist and dental assistant.

Finally, the shortage of dental auxiliaries has highlighted the need for an increased number of approved dental assistant programs in Maryland. The MSDA has been working to foster the establishment of additional programs throughout the State. Hopefully, having the opportunity to be certified to assist in an expanded, more meaningful manner will encourage more individuals to see certification as a dental assistant as a career option. SB 714 will provide the statutory authority to expand dental assistant's functions, and will create increase motivation for individuals to enter the field.

For these reasons, the Maryland State Dental Association urges that SB 714 receive a Favorable Report.

**Submitted by
Daniel T, Doherty, Jr.
February 22, 2022**

Testimony in Support of SB714.pdf

Uploaded by: Eric Morse

Position: FAV

Broad Street Dental
325 Broad Street
Perryville, MD 21903
410-642-9983

February 20, 2022

Written Testimony in Support of 2022 SB 714

Expanded Function Dental Assistants

Submitted by Eric Morse, DDS

My name is Dr. Eric Morse and I am submitting written testimony in favor of Senate Bill 714. I currently practice in Cecil County as a general dentist and am a Regional Director for the Academy of General Dentistry. I am on the Maryland State Dental Association's (MSDA) Legislative Affairs Committee and was appointed chair of the MSDA ad-hoc committee that studied and gave recommendations regarding the expansion of duties for dental assistants.

It is in that previous role that my testimony will focus. My committee was charged to, "study the prescriptive and restricted duties of qualified dental assistants in Maryland and whether revision is necessary to best serve the dental health of Marylanders." Let me first explain the current designations of dental assistants in Maryland.

Dental Assistant (DA) – No formal training required. On the job training permissible.

Dental Assistant Qualified in General Duties (DAQGD) – Certification awarded after required classroom hours and exam passed which allows additional duties to be performed from that of a DA.

Dental Assistant Qualified in Orthodontics (DAQO) – Similar to DAQGD, but in orthodontics.

The committee researched what other states allowed dental assistants to do and how the expansion of those duties in Maryland would help our patients. As the bill states, the four duties we support include the placement of dental sealants, the placement of sodium diamine fluoride, the monitoring of nitrous oxide, and coronal polishing. All of these duties are to be performed under the direct supervision of a dentist. We investigated the educational requirements in other states and consulted with numerous dental assisting schools within Maryland. Many of the dental assisting programs in Maryland already teach these duties because they are within the scope of dental assistants in other states. Currently, there are at least 41 states that allow some level of expanded function for dental assistants beyond what is allowed in Maryland.

The committee consulted numerous other individuals and agencies. We consulted with the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners, malpractice liability providers, dental specialists, and those in the public health sector. It was the general sense from the public health officials that expanding the duties of trained dental assistants would greatly help dentists treat more patients in these settings. One additional concern by some public health providers in more rural areas was that many expanded function dental assistants (DAQGDs) from Maryland work in neighboring states that allow them to perform more duties and often are compensated better because of it.

I would like to quickly explain the four duties included in this bill. Dental sealants are a protective coating that is placed in the grooves of the teeth to prevent food and plaque from accumulating, therefore helping prevent cavities. Silver diamine fluoride is a medication that is placed on a large cavity

and can stop its progression. This does not fix the cavity or hole in the tooth, but can buy time until further treatment can be performed, if needed. For example, it is often used in pediatric patients or elderly patients where cooperation (2 year old with large cavities) or facility (nursing home) does not allow for easy or immediate treatment with dental fillings. Coronal polishing is the removal of the superficial stain, plaque, or food debris after the calculus/tartar (built-up hard deposits) are removed from the teeth by a dentist or hygienist. Coronal polishing is normally the final step in a dental cleaning or done prior to placing a dental filling so that it can bond to a clean surface. The monitoring of nitrous oxide would allow a dental assistant to do just that, monitor a patient while on nitrous oxide. The dental assistant cannot change concentrations, but could monitor the patient if the dentist had to step out of the room for a couple minutes to see another patient. Currently, if the dentist leaves the room, they must turn off the nitrous oxide and turn it back on once they reenter the room. Multiple dental sedation experts were consulted including the director of the American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologist and agreed that dental assistants with proper training could safely perform this task. In fact, the most common risk with nitrous oxide is the potential for nausea and is made worse by taking a patient on and off the nitrous oxide.

After extensive research into these duties, I fully believe that their addition as allowable duties for dental assistants would be a great step in increasing the care for our patients in Maryland. For the above reasons, I would ask for a favorable report on SB 714.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Morse".

Eric Morse, DDS

SB714_StephenDargan_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Stephen Dargan

Position: FAV



Written Testimony of Dr. Stephen Dargan
President, Maryland State Dental Association
In Support of SB 714

Members of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

I am Stephen Dargan, DDS, a general practice dentist of 44 years in Prince Frederick, and current president of the Maryland State Dental Association.

I am in support of SB 714, both as an individual and as president of the MSDA, for all of the reasons in the testimony of our lobbyist, Dan Doherty.

I emphasize the facts that passage of SB 714 will safely allow expanded duties of dental assistants that will increase efficiencies in dental offices, allowing more patients to be treated and reducing one barrier for access to care. In addition, these duties make dental assisting more attractive as a career, with the possibility of reducing staff shortages.

These expanded function duties have been vetted by an ad hoc committee of the MSDA after diligent investigation of the safety of these duties being performed by assistants who are certified after appropriate training.

I therefore ask that SB 714 receive a favorable report.

Stephen M Dargan DDS
President, Maryland State Dental Association

SB714- MDHA - Testimony in Support w Amendment.pdf

Uploaded by: Caitlin McDonough

Position: FWA



The Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chair, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 22, 2022

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS - SENATE BILL 714 - HEALTH OCCUPATIONS – DENTAL ASSISTANTS – CERTIFICATION AND REGULATION

Dear Chair Pinsky 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 with amendments for Senate Bill 714 which would create a new credential for qualifying dental assistants in Maryland and expand the intraoral procedures able to be performed by those dental assistants.

MDHA is generally supportive of legislation that would safely allow qualifying dental assistants to perform additional intraoral procedures, however we believe it is essential that certain additional provisions be included in the legislation to ensure patient safety and clarity and consistency in the law. Below, please find a general description of MDHA's concerns and suggested amendments to SB714:

Clarification of Credential:

As introduced, SB714 creates in statute the credential of a Certified Dental Assistant. Outside of statute, the term "Certified Dental Assistant" is commonly used to describe dental assistants who complete certain training to perform enhanced functions, but those may differ from the additional procedures specified in SB714. MDHA would seek a clarification in the term/title used to refer to the enhanced function dental assistants in the legislation, so as to avoid confusion with commonly used, non-statutory terms.

Education in an Accredited Program

Under current law, dentists and dental hygienists must complete all required education and training through an accredited educational program, including training required to perform services identical to those specified for Certified Dental Assistants in SB714. To ensure that these services are performed in a standardized and safe manner, we request that a similar requirement be in place for dental assistants seeking to perform these specific tasks. Therefore, a dental assistant seeking certification and expanded function under the legislation should complete the requisite education in an accredited program. Given the limited accredited dental assistant programs that currently exist in the State, MDHA is committed to working with the State and stakeholders to increase accredited educational opportunities for dental assistants seeking to expand their function under SB714. Additionally, MDHA urges the Committee to consider increasing the age requirement for Certified

Dental Assistants from 17 years to 18 years, consistent with the age requirement for intraoral radiograph procedure privileges.

Removal of Coronal Polishing from Scope

MDHA has concerns with the inclusion of coronal polishing, under any circumstances, in the scope for Certified Dental Assistants under SB714. First, coronal polishing, if done incorrectly, can strip the protective covering of a tooth and lead to increased risk of damage and decay. Second, coronal polishing for stain removal may be perceived by a patient as a dental prophylaxis or “cleaning” and may result in that patient failing to seek full preventative care. To only polish the teeth without proper scaling would be substandard care and that patient would fail to receive the full preventative benefits.

Finally, MDHA recognizes the interest in increasing the scope of practice for dental assistants to help address concerns relating to staffing and gaps in dental services in the State. If there are certain populations or areas where the need for service demands increased reliance on dental assistants, rather than other dental practitioners, we would urge the Committee to consider limiting this expanded scope to those specific gaps.

MDHA thanks Senator Reilly and the members of the Committee for their leadership on dental health matters and looks forward to working with all stakeholders to amend the proposed legislation to allow for the expansion of scope for dental assistants and adequately address staffing shortages and gaps in dental care in Maryland, while maintaining standardized safeguards for patients and practitioners. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and position on Senate Bill 714.

2022 MDAC SB 714 Senate Side.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FWA



10015 Old Columbia Road, Suite B-215
Columbia, Maryland 21046
www.mdac.us

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

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 or (443) 926-3443.

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders

SB 714 Written.pdf

Uploaded by: Thomas a'Becket

Position: FWA

SB 714 Health Occupations Dental Assistants Certification and Regulation

Dr Thomas R. a'Becket

FAVORABLE

This bill creates an expanded Function Dental Assistant in 4 additional duties which can be performed under the DIRECT SUPERVISION of the treating dentist. This will elevate their training allowing a more efficient and productive delivery of oral health care in both public and private settings.

The new duties would be as follows:

- 1- Placement of dental sealants (plastic coating on tooth surfaces)**
- 2- Coronal polishing solely for stain and biofilm removal (not Prophylaxis)**
- 3- Monitoring Nitrous Oxide (laughing gas)**
- 4- Application of Silver Diamine Fluoride (decay arresting regime)**

The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners are charged under this bill to approve the educational requirements and appropriate certification utilizing the Dental Assisting National Board (DNAB) and other rules, regulations and fees. I believe 41 other states allow some or all of the above duties.

For these reasons I request a FAVORABLE REPORT for SB 714.

Dr Thomas R. a'Becket 301-928-8578

President Maryland State Charitable and Educational Foundation

Past President Maryland State Dental Association

8 - SB 714 - EHEA - Dental Board - LOC.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Heather Shek

Position: UNF



Board of Dental Examiners

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

Arpana S. Verma Board Chair – Francis X. McLaughlin, Jr., Executive Director

55 Wade Avenue/Tulip Drive Catonsville, MD 21228 P: 410-402-8501; E: mdh.mddentalboard@maryland.gov

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 714 - Health Occupations - Dental Assistants - Certification and Regulation - Letter of Concern

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners (the Board) is submitting this letter of concern for Senate Bill (SB) 714 - Health Occupations - Dental Assistants - Certification and Regulation. This bill would establish a certification and regulatory scheme to certify dental assistants to perform certain intraoral procedures; specify the intraoral procedures a dental assistant is authorized to perform without being certified by the State Board of Dental Examiners and the intraoral procedures that require certification; and authorize the Board to penalize a licensed dentist who allows a dental assistant to provide dental care in an unauthorized manner or without required instruction or supervision.

Although the Board agrees with the premise of this legislation, there is concern that changing the scope of practice of dental assistants, contacting, and registering them by October 1, 2022 will not be an easy task. At the current time, the Maryland State Dental Board recognizes and certifies dental radiation technologists (DRT) of which there are 7,067. The Board also recognizes Qualified Dental Assistants (QDAs) and Certified Dental Assistants (CDAs); however, the Board only registers these individuals. There is a great deal of overlap between QDAs, CDAs, and DRTs. At this time, Expanded Function Dental Assistants are not recognized in Maryland. To be sure, the bill as written contains no provisions on how to properly grandfather existing certificate-holders and registrants to this new regulatory scheme, which would effectively nullify the registrations or certifications many of those individuals due to the fact that so much of the Board's current regulatory framework is found in its regulations.

Due to this overlap in duties and qualifications, the Board recommends **all** dental assistants be certified by the Board with ongoing renewals in order to ensure uniformity in skills as well as ensuring appropriate education, training, and oversight to protect our citizens. Another reason the Board suggests certifying all dental assistants is clarity for practitioners and the public. Having two classes of dental assistant - one certified and another not certified - will cause unnecessary confusion, especially if this bill were to take effect on October 1, 2022.

Moreover, any expansion in the scope of practice for dental assistants may bring with it attendant issues of oversight, discipline and responsibility. Who would be responsible for the assistant's performance or injury to a patient? The bill is silent on whether the newly created certified dental assistants could be disciplined by the Board or whether the Board could deny initial certificate for extant issues like discipline in another State, criminal history, or lying on a Board application. These issues need very specific discussion and focus prior to any adjustment of the scope of dental practice in this area.

Furthermore, in 2021, the General Assembly established the Task Force on Oral Health (Task Force) (2021 Senate Bill 100; 2021 House Bill 368.). As established, the Task Force is a temporary committee of Maryland oral health experts charged with the study and analysis of the current landscape of oral health services in the State and making recommendations to improve access to services, especially for our most vulnerable citizens. One of the specific areas that the task force is currently reviewing are the roles and responsibilities of the dental team which they must submit an interim report on by May 1, 2022, and a final report by December 1, 2022, to the Governor and select General Assembly committees. The Board believes this bill would undercut the current work of the Task Force as it would enact concepts that the Task Force is already studying. Indeed, if the General Assembly values the work of the Task Force, it would be prudent to await its report before enacting legislation that would so substantially alter the landscape of dental care in the State of Maryland.

Again, the Board is very supportive of this concept, however, for the reasons stated, it cannot and should not be rushed. Furthermore, we should allow the Task Force to complete its work.

I hope that this information is helpful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at (240) 498-8159, averma93@gmail.com, or Dr. Edwin Morris, the Dental Board's Legislative Committee Chair at (410) 218-4203. In addition, the Board's Executive Director, Mr. Frank McLaughlin may be reached at (443) 878-5253 or frank,mclaughlin@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arpana s. Verma', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Arpana s.Verma, D.D.S. Board President

The opinion of the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners expressed in this letter of concern does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.

MSA Letter of Information - Senate Bill 714 - Heal

Uploaded by: Barbara Brocato

Position: INFO



MARYLAND SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

Date: February 22, 2022
Committee: The Honorable Senator Paul Pinsky, Chair
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Bill: Senate Bill 714 - Health Occupations - Dental Assistants - Certification and Regulation
Position: Letter of Information

The Maryland Society of Anesthesiologists (MSA) is a State component society of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). The MSA is a non-profit physician organization dedicated to promoting the safest and highest standards of the profession of anesthesiology in the State of Maryland. Our purpose is to advocate on behalf of our members for their patients through policy, education, and research.

As introduced Senate Bill 714, among other provisions, “authorizes a certified dental assistant to “monitor nitrous oxide”. This would be a newly defined task for dental assistants who achieve certification from the Board of Dental Examiners. We offer the following amendment as a means to ensure clarity of the services to be performed by the certified dental assistant with respect to the monitoring of nitrous oxide. This reflects language that exists in Maryland regulation regarding monitoring of nitrous oxide by registered dental hygienists.

AMENDMENT:

Page 4, Line 6 strike “; OR” and Insert the following after “OXIDE”

WHICH MEANS THE OBSERVATION OF THE PATIENT:

- (A) DURING THE FLOW OF NITROUS OXIDE;**
- (B) DURING THE REDUCTION OF THE FLOW OF NITROUS OXIDE;**
- (C) DURING THE SHUTTING OFF OF THE EQUIPMENT CONTROLLING THE FLOW OF NITROUS OXIDE; AND**
- (D) AT ALL TIMES IN BETWEEN THE START OF THE FLOW OF NITROUS OXIDE UNTIL AFTER NITROUS OXIDE HAS BEEN TERMINATED AND THE PATIENT HAS FULLY AWOKEN AND IS COHERENT.; OR**

The section would read as follows:

[Unchanged]

(IV) APPLYING SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE;

(V) MONITORING NITROUS OXIDE;~~OR WHICH MEANS THE OBSERVATION OF THE PATIENT:~~

- (A) DURING THE FLOW OF NITROUS OXIDE;**
- (B) DURING THE REDUCTION OF THE FLOW OF NITROUS OXIDE;**
- (C) DURING THE SHUTTING OFF OF THE EQUIPMENT CONTROLLING THE FLOW OF NITROUS OXIDE; AND**
- (D) AT ALL TIMES IN BETWEEN THE START OF THE FLOW OF NITROUS OXIDE UNTIL AFTER NITROUS OXIDE HAS BEEN TERMINATED AND THE PATIENT HAS FULLY AWOKEN AND IS COHERENT.; OR**

(VI) ADDITIONAL INTRAORAL PROCEDURES AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD IN REGULATIONS.

With these amendments the MSA takes a neutral position on Senate Bill 714. We appreciate the proponents working with us on these amendments to ensure clarity for the patient and the practitioners involved in the care of the patient.

For additional information please contact Dan Shattuck, Executive Director at mdashq@gmail.com.