

January 20, 2022

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
Chairwoman, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
email: [delores.kelley@senate.state.md.us](mailto:delores.kelley@senate.state.md.us)

**RE: SB 150**

Dear Senator Kelley,

The University of Maryland School of Dentistry would like to thank you and members of the Senate Finance Committee for your continued support and advocacy for improving access and expanded dental care for the citizens of Maryland. The School of Dentistry strongly supports SB 150, which would authorize comprehensive dental care for adults whose annual household income is at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty. Conclusive evidence demonstrates that good oral health is integral to overall health, positive healthcare outcomes, and quality of life. Persistent disparities in oral health pose a major public health challenge, with low-income and racial and ethnic minority populations continuing to experience a greater burden of dental disease. The combination of Medicaid expansion and coverage of Medicaid dental benefits has been shown to increase access to dental care among low-income adults and improve clinical parameters of oral health. SB 150 provides a critical opportunity and pathway to improve oral health and promote the general health of many vulnerable and underserved citizens of Maryland.

The University of Maryland School of Dentistry stands ready to assist in any way possible to expand services and access to health care in our communities.

Thank you for your support of SB 150.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Reynolds, DDS, PhD  
Dean

Cc: Senator Malcolm Augustine  
Senator Guy Guzzone