

Karyn Carr Porter, RDH, BS  
Dental Hygiene Supervisor  
1111 North Charles St  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
410-837-2050 \* 4412  
kcarrporter@chasebrexton.org

Chair Delores G. Kelley  
Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chair Kelley:

On behalf of myself and the entire dental team at Chase Brexton Health Care, we strongly support Senate Bill SB 150 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Coverage for Adults. This bill will greatly increase the span and quality of care our patients can affordably receive.

As a dental hygienist, I have worked in the public health field since 2012 to the present day and am currently employed in one of Baltimore's largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Most of our patients are low-income, uninsured adults in the surrounding area. Many of our adult patients that already have a dental plan through the state of Maryland are only able to receive preventive care or limited emergency care. If they need anything else, such as restoratives, extractions, dentures, and deeper cleanings (scaling and root planning), they have only a few options right now to afford these services.

- Pay out of pocket, full cost.
- Apply for our sliding fee scale for reduced fee (based on income and family size).
- Apply for hardship voucher our FQHC can sometimes provide for a coupon towards dental services.
- Put off getting any work done.

Sadly, putting off needed dental work is the most common choice, and has greater consequences than it might first appear to have. Maintenance of cavities and infections in the mouth is a vital step in preventing escalation of health issues. Left untended due to difficulty of receiving care, these problems can damage health in other parts of the body, such as an increased risk of cardiac disease and complications to managing diabetes. If we could ensure options for more robust dental coverage throughout this state, and see these important treatments carried out, that can only serve to benefit the immediate oral health of our patients, and prevent further, more dramatic burdens on their overall health and the healthcare system.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Karyn Carr Porter at [kcarrporter@chasebrexton.org](mailto:kcarrporter@chasebrexton.org) or 410-837-2050 \* 4412.

Sincerely,

Karyn Carr Porter, RDH, BS  
Dental Hygiene Supervisor  
Chase Brexton Health Care

**Chase Brexton Dental Team:**Mount Vernon:

Dr. Brooks Woodward  
Dr. Neuthan Rao  
Dr. Sean O'Connor  
Karyn Carr Porter, RDH, BS  
Antonio Robinson  
Twila Shipley  
Chekeda Hatcher  
Jessica Graves  
Tamiya Taylor  
Gerhari Jackson  
Mallorie Brothers  
Sean Terry

Columbia:

Dr. Ayana Gallego  
Saidat Popoola-Sampson, RDH, BS  
Karuna Warriar, RDH, BS  
Edlam Demisse

Glen Burnie:

Dr. Lisa King-Baker  
Dr. Stephanie Dennison  
Leah Soucy, RDH, BS  
Tonya Hawkins

Randallstown:

Dr. Genevieve Graves-Appiah  
Nikia Stevens