



TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Ariana B. Kelly

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 1, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 219 – *Dental Hygienists – Consultation Requirements – Health Care Practitioners*

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers (MACHC) is the federally designated Primary Care Association for Delaware and Maryland Community Health Centers. As the backbone of the primary care safety net, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are united by a shared mission to ensure access to high-quality health care to all individuals, regardless of ability to pay. FQHCs are non-profit organizations providing comprehensive primary care to the medically underserved and uninsured. MACHC supports its members in the delivery of accessible, affordable, cost effective, and quality primary health care to those most in need. To this end, MACHC **supports** House Bill 219.

House Bill 219 expands the health care practitioners with whom a dental hygienist may consult with before proceeding with treatment if there is a change in or concerns about the patient's medical history. Currently, a dental hygienist may only consult with the supervising dentist or a physician. House Bill 219 adds registered nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife, or licensed certified midwife. This expansion will help ensure that the dental hygienist is able to confer directly with the practitioner with whom the patient has a direct patient care relationship. FQHCs provide a comprehensive continuum of health care services which often include dental services. Passage of House Bill 219 will enhance patient/practitioner communication and coordination of services as well as provide a dental hygienist with the most current and accurate information on a patient's health status and medical history as these advanced practice practitioners are often directly responsible for the care of the patient. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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