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### **Written Testimony in Opposition to 2022 HB 1266**

Dentists – Saliva Lead Poisoning Tests

Submitted by Charles Doring DDS

Dear members of the House Health & Government operations Committee. My name is Dr. Charles Doring and I am providing testimony in opposition to HB 1266. 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, member of Maryland Task Force on Oral Health, and Deans Faculty member of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry testifying as myself.

The dental profession embraces the opportunity to work with our medical colleagues to perform early screenings for dental and medical condition. Testing of saliva for biomarkers of various disease is becoming more commonplace as the science, research and accuracy (elimination of false positives and false negatives) improves. The future will bring a whole host of salivary fluid tests for dental diseases and medical condition. At the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, dental hygiene students participate in collecting saliva testing samples for testing of HIV. Dental Clinics of North America 2011 Jan: 55(1): 159-178 sited future saliva tests for a diverse number of conditions such as cardiovascular disease, renal disease, physiologic stress & pain, systemic malignancies, diabetes biomarkers, forensics, autoimmune disease, infectious and viral diseases, and common oral diseases.

HB 1266 has admirable goals but does not properly add saliva lead poisoning testing into the scope of practice of dentistry. Under Maryland law, the practice of dentistry is defined, in part in the following manner: “to diagnose, treat, or attempt to diagnose or treat any disease, injury, malocclusion, or malposition of a tooth, gum, or jaw, or structures associates with a tooth, gum, or jaw if the service, operation, **or procedure is included in the curricula of an accredited dental school or in an approved dental residency program of an accredited hospital or teaching institution....**” Annotated Code of Maryland, Health Occupation Article 4-101(1)(3). HB 1266 would set the precedence that all future saliva tests, and for that matter, all future developed dental procedures to be added to the scope of

dental practice through legislation, not as noted above in Maryland Annotated Code. This would be a disservice to the ever-changing science of oral and medical health. An accredited dental school should be the litmus test for scope of dental practice along with competency as determined by the Standard of Care. Salivary testing for lead poisoning aside, the legislative route to add to scope dental of practice as proposed in HB 1266 would lead to legislation in which appropriate scientific evidence may be lacking or outdated, possible delays in providing new procedures and techniques, and constant return for legislation each time a new and reliable salivary test is developed for any medical/dental diagnosis. Further, legislation would be required to remove older outdated test no longer recommended or performed..

For the reasons listed above, I ask that committee give HB 1266 an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Doring DDS