



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

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March 22, 2022

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: SB 306 - Dental Hygienists-Consultation Requirements - Health Care Practitioners - Letter of Support as Amended

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners (the Board) is submitting this letter of support as amended for Senate Bill (SB) 306 - Dental Hygienists - Consultation Requirements - Health Care Practitioners. Under the existing law, a dental hygienist who provides dental hygiene services in a facility such as a nursing home, an assisted living program, or group home, is required to consult with either the supervising dentist, the patient's dentist, or a treating physician before proceeding with treatment if there is a change in the patient's medical history. As introduced, in addition to those individuals, the dental hygienist would have been permitted to consult with *either* a registered nurse practitioner, a certified nurse midwife, or a licensed certified midwife before proceeding with treatment if there is a change in the patient's medical history. Also as introduced, dental hygienists would have been permitted to provide dental hygiene services in the office of a physician, registered nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife, or licensed certified midwife who provides prenatal, postpartum, or primary care in which the supervising dentist and dental hygienist communicate with the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife, or licensed certified midwife in providing dental hygiene services to a patient.

The amendments to SB 306 alleviate the Board's concerns. As amended, the bill requires that a dental hygienist consult with the supervising dentist, or the patient's dentist, *and* the treating physician, registered nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife, or licensed certified midwife before proceeding with treatment if there is a change in the patient's medical condition. This amendment will ensure that a patient will receive proper medical and dental care if the patient's medical condition has changed.

For these reasons, the Dental Board respectfully requests that SB 306 receive a favorable report.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at 240-498-8159, asverma93@gmail.com, or Dr. Edwin Morris, the 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, frank.mclaughlin@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arpana S. Verma', with a long horizontal flourish 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 does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the administration.