



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

55 Wade Avenue/Tulip Drive Catonsville, MD 21228 Phone: 410-402-8501; Email: mdh.mddentalboard@maryland.gov

February 16, 2022

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: HB 623 - Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Essential Health Care Workers - Dental Board - Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Committee Members:

The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for House Bill (HB) 623 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Essential Health Care Workers. The bill provides a \$2,000 tax credit for “essential health care workers” who performed a duty or work responsibility during a state of emergency declared by the Governor due to the COVID-19 pandemic that could not be performed remotely or was required to be performed at the work site. An “essential health care worker” is defined in the bill as a licensed physician, a licensed practical nurse, a registered nurse, or an emergency medical services provider.

The Board wishes to amend the definition to include “dentists, dental hygienists, and dental radiation technologists.” During the COVID-19 pandemic dentists, dental hygienists, and dental radiation technologists put themselves at great risk while performing essential duties in private offices and clinics throughout the state. COVID-19 and its variants are extremely contagious and is transmitted by exposure to infectious respiratory fluids transmitted by coughing, sneezing, and talking. Those within six feet of an infected person, including all dentists, dental hygienists, and dental radiation technologists who treated patients were, and still are, subject to infection. Some died or became extremely ill as a result of their commitment to their patients.

In addition, on August 10, 2020 the American Dental Association declared dentistry as an “essential health care service” adding that “essential dental care should continue to be delivered during global pandemics or other disaster situations.”

Therefore, the Board offers the following amendments:

Amendment: Page 2, line 6, after the second time the word “NURSE” appears insert
“LICENSED DENTIST, LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENIST, AND CERTIFIED DENTAL RADIATION TECHNOLOGIST,”

As amended (BB) (1) (III) should read:

“ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE WORKER” MEANS A LICENSED PHYSICIAN, A LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE, A REGISTERED NURSE, A LICENSED DENTIST, A CERTIFIED DENTAL RADIATION TECHNOLOGIST, OR AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDER WHO PERFORMED A DUTY OR WORK RESPONSIBILITY:

I hope that this information is helpful. 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,



Arpana S. Verma, D.D.S.
Board President

The opinion of the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners expressed in this support with amendments position paper does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the administration.