

# Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

5900 Abriana Way, Elkridge, Maryland 21075

From: Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

To: Chairman William Smith JR.

Re: Adult Protective Services-Vulnerable Adults Registry-Investigations and Records of Abuse and Neglect and Workshop Study

Date: January 31, 2022

Dear Chairman Smith,

The Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. is in Favor of SB 357

We represent the Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition (Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness). We were established in 2000, our mission is "To create an atmosphere of understanding in dentistry and other professional communities which will result in the prevention of abuse and neglect through early identification and appropriate intervention for those who have been abused or neglected." Dentists and Dental Hygienists (Dental Professionals) are mandated by the State of Maryland to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect. Our coalition has established a Continuing Education (CE) course that educates Dental Professionals and others how to recognize, report, or refer. The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners has deemed this course as a mandatory CE requirement for Dentists and Hygienists to renew their licenses. We also address domestic violence, elder abuse, human trafficking and bullying in our CE course.

The Vulnerable Adult is an at-risk population, they are usually isolated and difficult to tract. For this reason, it is important for Social Services to establish and maintain a centralized confidential database for abused and neglected vulnerable adults. A pattern of abuse/neglect can then be detected, and the victim can be protected from any other abusive from that individual or removed from the facility where the abuse is occurring. A vulnerable adult usually does not have the capacity to report on their own behalf. It would be advantageous to have a workshop to determine new ways in which we can protect this population.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 357 and ask for a favorable vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

Carol Caiazzo, RDH President

Susan Camardese, RDH, MS, Vice President