

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 Luke Clippinger

Re: Child Abuse and Neglect-Training of Health Care Professionals

Date: February 21, 2022

Dear Chairman Clippinger,

The Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. is in Favor of HB 1169

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.

It is a proven fact that mandated reporters fail to report abuse and neglect because they are unaware of the signs to look for. It is imperative to educate those that are expected to report as to the signs to look for and how and where to report suspected cases This is exactly why we established our Continuing Education course. Health professionals should be mandated to take such a course and also post information in the workplace on where to report suspected abuse and neglect. Due to changes that occur over time this information should be updated at least every 2 years and require retraining.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 1169 and ask for a favorable vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Carol Caiazza, RDH President

Susan Camardese, RDH, MS, Vice President