

Written testimony of Dr. Qoot Alkhubaizi
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For: The Finance Committee
Regarding: HB 1159, **Position:** Favorable

I am a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, where I currently serve as the Program Director for the Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency since 2017. I was recruited internationally for this position due to my enhanced training in the field of general dentistry and my experience in academia.

I received my dental education and degree from the United Kingdom, and my 2 years of postgraduate residency training in general dentistry at the University of Maryland, where I also completed a Master of Science in Clinical Research. I am a Diplomat of the American Board of General Dentistry, and licensed to practice in 3 countries, including Virginia in the United States.

In my current role at The University of Maryland, I am responsible each year for the education and clinical training of 11 students who are pursuing a career focused on general dentistry. My residents are train at a higher level than the average dental school graduate, diagnosing and treating more complex cases, so that they may better serve the public.

In 2018, a bill was passed here in Maryland, allowing my foreign-trained-specialist colleagues, who trained in the U.S and then served as fulltime faculty for 7 years at the University of Maryland, to be eligible for the license exam in the State of Maryland.

HB1159 is essential for positioning the School of Dentistry to remain competitive in recruiting internationally trained general dentists. Nationally, academic dentistry is facing its largest shortage of dental educators in the last 20 years, specifically in the discipline of General Dentistry. Internationally trained dentists are well-qualified to support the demands of dental education and serve the Maryland public with their expertise.

Licensed General Dentistry faculty will be able to provide dental care to participants of the Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program and join national organizations such as the American Dental Association, playing an important role in supporting and advancing the health and education of the public in the state of Maryland.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my beliefs and I hope you will vote in favor of ***HB1159***.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Qoot Alkhubaizi", enclosed within a hand-drawn circle.

Qoot Alkhubaizi, BSc BChD MFDRCS Irel MS ABGD

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Program Director, Advanced Education in General Dentistry
University of Maryland, School of Dentistry