



10015 Old Columbia Road, Suite B-215  
Columbia, Maryland 21046  
www.mdac.us

**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 534 – Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2023

**Hearing Date:** February 22, 2023

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) strongly supports *Senate Bill 534 – Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2023*. The bill continues to recognize that telehealth can improve access to all types of services, including dental services. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Maryland Medical Assistance Program has reimbursed for tele-dentistry using a procedure code established by the American Dental Association.

Through telehealth during the pandemic, dentists have been able to provide remote consultations and then follow-up with in-person services as necessary. The pandemic has accelerated the implementation of telehealth to address access issues by:

- Connecting patients in remote areas to specialists. This is particular critical in rural areas;
- Providing emergency consults and diverting patients from emergency rooms; and
- Allowing dentist to provide consults to patients who face mobility and transportation issues.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

***Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders***