

Thank you to the committee for your consideration of HB-970. I am here to support this bill. My name is Dr. Kevin Banks and I am a board certified pediatric dentist practicing in Frederick, MD. At our office, we see pediatric patients in office and in the operating room at Holy Cross Germantown and Shady Grove Adventist hospitals. While we do see many kids and teens in our practice, some patients who are unable to cooperate, may have mental disabilities, or the work is too extensive for the patient to tolerate in office need this time within the hospital setting. During the time of Covid, our time was significantly cut, however we were able to bounce back with a wait time for patients that went from 2-3 months up to 5-6 month waiting list. As time moved forward however, we started receiving many more cases due to offices in the surrounding areas and counties not able to treat their cases due to limited access. So as a result of the reduction of time and the higher influx of cases, our wait time increased to 10-12 months which is unacceptable. Any further wait times, and depending on the severity, these patients could be at risk for life threatening medical emergencies such as sepsis. Sepsis is the body's extreme response to an infection. Sepsis happens when an infection you already have triggers a chain reaction throughout your body causing the body to be in a crisis state.

Our practice has had to stop taking referrals from Carroll County as an example of some of the measures we've had to take because it is no longer safe for us to take on those patients. Which leads us to our most recent complication, the closing of the block time at Shady Grove severely impacted us and the patients to the point where we have to start sending patients to other avenues when we were considered one of the last areas of hope for treatment. As a practicing pediatric dentist for over 8 years now, it breaks my heart to tell a mother of a 2 year old child with severe childhood caries (cavities) due to limited dental knowledge that we cannot help them with the means which we have. Or the mother with an autistic child who is 6 years old, has multiple cavities, and just can't sit in the chair to get even a cleaning done. Or the father who has a 5 year old tee ball player who has multiple cavities due to the asthma medication that they had to take. The list goes on, and that is why I support this bill. It is imperative that this bill moves forward because there is no other option for these patients. The operating room is the optimal pathway to critical care and I ask for a favorable report on HB-970. Below are some cases in which you can refer to, to see the severity of these cases. Thank you for your time and kind understanding on this matter. I can be reached at [kevin.banks915@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.banks915@gmail.com) and phone (301) 404 - 1665.

Case 1 - 2 year old female



Case 2 - 3 year old female



Case 3 - 8 y/o male

