

My name is Dr. Bramaramba Sruthi Paimagham, a practicing Pediatric Dentist in Frederick, MD. I have hospital privileges at Holy Cross Hospital - Germantown and Adventist Shady Grove hospital - Rockville.

In our hospital we see so many patients day to day who need urgent dental care. These patients due to various reasons like special health care needs, age and anxiety cannot get treatment done in a clinical setting. I would like to share a small story of my patient and it is heartbreaking. This patient's mom saved the money to schedule the hospital appointment for her child who is in pain but there are no hospital spots open to see her child. Presently our wait time is over a year to receive dental care in a hospital. It can lead to significant health consequences, including pain, infection, even tooth loss. It is unacceptable that children are being forced to endure these conditions simply because they cannot access timely dental care.

That is why I strongly support the HB-970 bill, as there is a large pediatric population that needs hospital dentistry, and this bill would address many of the issues that are contributing to these long wait times. Please consider a favorable report for HB-970.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I would also like to thank the committee and Ms. Pena-Melnyk for their time and effort.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bramaramba Sruthi Paimagham