

March 6, 2023

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1159

**RE: HB 1159 State Board of Dental Examiners - University of Maryland
School of Dentistry Faculty - Qualifying for Examination**

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk:

The University of Maryland School of Dentistry would like to thank you and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee for your advocacy for improving access and expanded dental care for the citizens of Maryland through your continued support of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry.

The University of Maryland School of Dentistry supports HB 1159, which would establish a pathway for faculty members who completed training at a foreign dental school to qualify by the State Board of Dental Examiners to take an examination offered by the American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc., or its successor organization. According to a recent article in the *Journal of Dental Education* (September, 2022), dental education in the United States is still facing a faculty workforce shortage. In 2015–2016, over 40 percent of full-time dental faculty in the United States was reported to be over 60 years of age, suggesting that there is an impending wave of faculty retirements in the coming years. HB 1159 will strengthen the ability of the School of Dentistry to recruit and retain highly qualified faculty members.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 1159.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Reynolds, DDS, PhD
Dean

cc: The Honorable Bonnie Cullison