



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND

Written testimony of Dr. Qoot Alkhubaizi
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For: The House Health and Government Operations 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 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 2017, 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. However, due to an apparent oversight, this bill did not include General Dentists. The training my colleague specialists received is comparable to the training I have completed. However, I am unable to enjoy the same privileges and recognition as they do, here in Maryland. And yet, I am able and do have a dental license in Virginia (and other states), having met all of their requirements.

Moreover, due to my inability to be licensed in the state of Maryland, I am deprived from joining national organizations such as the American Dental Association which plays an important role in supporting and advancing the health and education of the public.

Furthermore, my current licensure status prevents me from registering to be a provider for Maryland Medicaid members. Nationally, academic dentistry is facing its largest shortage of dental educators, specifically within the discipline of General Dentistry in the professorial track. As a result, the only public institution and dental school in the state of Maryland has a difficult time attracting and retaining their skilled, international faculty to support the demands of dental education and serve the public with their expertise. Facilitating equity and removing barriers to licensure will greatly support the needs of the institution.

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

Respectfully,



Qoot Alkhubaizi, BSc BChD MFDRCS Irel MS ABGD

Pronouns: she/her/hers

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