

Thank you to the committee for your consideration of HB-970 and discussion of this important issue. My name is Dr. T.P. Sivakumar and I have been practicing dentistry for over 30 years. I am a diplomate and fellow of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, and part of the Frederick County Dental Society. As a practice owner in Frederick, MD I have been participating with Healthy Smiles for 18 years. They represent a large part of our patient population and I feel strongly that pediatric dentists have a duty to serve these patients as they are often at-risk and underserved. Additionally, I serve on the executive committee of Healthy Smiles and I am the Shady Grove Section Chair of Pediatric Dentistry so I have had a front row seat to the direct impact of these changes on dentists across our state. The lack of hospital OR time severely limits the access to care for the most vulnerable patients. For many young and special needs patients, the operating room is the only safe way to complete dental treatment. The pediatric dentists in Maryland are trying to avoid a situation like what happened to Deamonte Driver 16 years ago. I strongly urge that we act now before more patients end up in the emergency room with even more costly treatment and dangerous infections. Please refer to the pictures below to see the type of dental need that we see on a weekly and sometimes daily basis. I ask for a favorable report on HB-970. Thank you for your time and please reach out with any questions. Dr. T.P Sivakumar drsivi@aol.com (301) 514-8588.

