

Thank you to the committee for your consideration of HB-970. I am here to support this bill. My name is Emily Little and I am a pediatric dentist residing in Kensington but practicing in Frederick, MD. I see pediatric patients in the operating room at Holy Cross Germantown and Shady Grove Adventist. Almost every day we see patients with extensive dental treatment who are too young to tolerate treatment in the chair, and therefore require treatment in the operating room. Unfortunately, our practice has had to stop taking referrals from Carroll County because we felt the wait list was too long to safely accommodate them, leaving them with very few options. The closing of block time at Shady Grove so abruptly has significantly impacted access to care for our patients. It is difficult to see a young child in pain and tell the parents it may be months before we can safely treat their child, leaving them at risk of infection in the waiting period. The operating room is safer than in-office general anesthesia and surgical centers and therefore the best place for these young patients, your constituents. I ask for a favorable report on HB-970. Thank you for your time and please reach out with any questions.

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