

I would like to thank the committee and Ms. Pena-Melnyk for their time and consideration of this important issue. My name is Dr. Sagar Patel, a practicing pediatric dentist in Frederick, MD with hospital credentials at Holy Cross - Germantown and Shady Grove Hospitals. I am here to support HB-970, as there is an urgent need for pediatric dentists to care for patients in the operating room setting. Many children are unable to tolerate treatment in the dental office due to extent of treatment, special health care needs, or other psychosocial considerations. Presently, our wait time is over one year, and many of these families have nowhere to turn. It is those who are most in need that our hospitals are not serving. For these reasons I ask for a favorable report on HB-970.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sagar Patel