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To: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: HB 588 – Health Insurance – Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act)

Date: February 23, 2023

Position: Support with Amendments

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition strongly supports House Bill 588 – *Health Insurance – Qualified Resident Enrollment Program*. The bill requires establishment of an eligibility program for individuals regardless of immigration status for qualified health plans. Maryland took a significant step forward with immigrant coverage when the Maryland General Assembly enacted *The Maryland Healthy Babies Act*. Set to begin in July 2023, Medicaid will cover the full range of Medicaid services, including dental, for undocumented immigrants who are pregnant.

We would request an amendment to clarify that dental coverage will also be included. Under the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, the term “qualified health plan” does not include the stand-alone dental plans offered on the Exchange:

On page 2 in line 9, insert “STAND ALONE DENTAL PLAN” after “QUALIFIED HEALTH PLAN”

On page 7 in lines 6 and 9, insert “STAND ALONE DENTAL PLANS” after “QUALIFIED HEALTH PLANS”

Thank you for your consideration of this amendment. We look forward to working on this issue. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders