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March 7, 2023

COMMITTEE: House Health and Government Operations Committee

BILL: HB 970 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Hospitals
– Dental Services

POSITION: Support

The Horizon Foundation is Howard County's community health foundation and the largest independent health philanthropy in the state of Maryland. We lead community change so everyone in Howard County can live a longer, better life.

The Foundation is pleased to support HB 970 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Hospitals – Dental Services.

HB 970 would require acute care hospitals in the state that participate in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to develop plans to provide adequate operating room time for dental services, including pediatric dental services, dental services for adults with disabilities, and dental services for the community served by the hospital.

Dental care is an important but often overlooked part of our health care system. For far too long, dental care was not covered by the state's Medicaid program for children or adults, leaving low-income residents without access to these important health services. While the state has made significant improvements in coverage for oral health services, barriers like the lack of operating suite availability can make it difficult for residents to get the oral health services they need and deserve. This bill will help eliminate barriers that keep people from living a healthy life.

For these reasons, the Foundation **SUPPORTS HB 970** and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

Thank you for your consideration.