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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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Testimony in Support of HB 1159
State Board of Dental Examiners – University of Maryland School of Dentistry Faculty
Qualifying for Examination

Good afternoon, Chairman Peña-Melnyk, and honorable members of the committee. Thank you for this opportunity to present HB 1159 **State Board of Dental Examiners – University of Maryland School of Dentistry Faculty -- Qualifying for Examination**. This bill simply extends the opportunities that we extended to dental specialists to those who are general dentists. It will allow a dentist who is foreign trained and who has been faculty at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry for at least seven years to apply to take the American Board of Dental Examiners exam to become licensed to practice general dentistry in Maryland.

The University of Maryland School of Dentistry is one of the premier schools in the country. It maintains that status by seeking out the best practitioners to be the educators and this search is international. As a result, there are dental professors who are foreign trained. In 2018, we passed legislation that allowed those who were foreign trained in a recognized dental specialty to take the exam and be Board certified. Many of these highly trained specialists have stayed in Maryland and in the school because of this opportunity.

Hb1159 would extent this same opportunity to those who were trained in general dentistry. While they can treat patients within the dental school, under current law these educators cannot

1. Have the dental school bill insurance carriers for the services provided.
2. Become a member of the American Dental Association.
3. Practice in a dental office unaffiliated with the school.

Of course, these educators would be required to have completed a general practice residency or advance education or is Board Certified by the American Board of General Dentistry and submit a letter of support from the school. We will continue to maintain high standards of knowledge and experience.

As a state that values highly qualified and skilled dental practitioners, this law helps to retain those foreign trained educators in our state. Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully request a favorable report.