

First and foremost I would like to thank Ms. Pena-Melnyk and the entire committee for their time and consideration on this important matter. My name is Nikki Fischbach and I am a pediatric dentist in Frederick, MD. I am credentialed at Shady Grove Hospital to provide dental services to children.

I am writing this letter to you today in favor of HB-970. Over the past year I have seen a drastic decline in the access to hospital time for myself and my dental colleagues. There are many children that are unable to tolerate dental treatment in the clinics due to severity of dental decay, children having special health care needs, and even different psychosocial situations. I personally have approximately 20 children waiting for treatment in the operating room that have no other means to access care. The wait time is currently 1 year, and these children are forming dental infections that have the potential to affect brain development, quality of life and ability to focus in school due to pain, and could potentially lead to death. The children that are not getting treatment are the children most in need.

I am pleading to you for a favorable report on HB-970.