

Testimony- in favor of bill- HB 970.

Thank you Madam Chairwoman and Vice Chairman ! My name is Dr Naru Baliga and I am in favor of the Bill- HB 970. I am a Board Certified Pediatric dentist and a Diplomate of AAPD, practicing in Damascus MD. I currently have Hospital affiliation at Shady Grove Medical Center located in Rockville, MD. I did have a previous Hospital affiliation at Frederick Memorial Hospital (FMH) located in Frederick MD 3 years ago. I have been practicing as Pediatric dentist since 2011 and as a dentist since 1998!

However, I am writing to you as an individual today. It is very disheartening to see us, as Pediatric dentist being unable to bring our patients in to the Hospital to provide care under GA over the years. It all began few years ago actually at FMH, when we were discouraged to bring our pediatric dental patients and all of us including myself resigned from FMH. Obviously we were in disbelief but understood the business aspects of the Hospital, as all of us also own our dental practice. Besides we still had privileges at SGMC, Rockville. This past November, it was a deja-vu experience for us. Our patients were cancelled and were unable to book any further appointments for our patients.

That set off a chain of events for our patients. We are referring our patients out of Frederick and Montgomery county now. Patients have had to travel more and longer hours on the road. With the backlog of patients waiting to be seen have created lot of visits to Emergency departments as we are unable to help these kids.

We bear the brunt of tears, frustration and anger of the parents that is now directed at us. We are willing to treat them but we have nowhere to take them other than refer out to far out towns. A surgical center that I am considering have a very strict guideline to finish our cases under certain amount of time that we have to take our patient either twice or over treat in order to plan out the treatment plan that takes the most optimal time. One mom left a practice and came to us because only one side of the mouth was done at that one visit in the Surgical center. She did not want to take off time from her job twice besides having to make the child miss school twice.

Hence for these reasons, I am requesting a favorable outcome on this bill- HB970.

Thank you!

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