



Maryland Community Health System

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number:	SB 799
Title:	Health Occupations – Limited License to Practice Dentistry – Services for Adults
Hearing Date:	February 13, 2024
Position:	Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports Senate Bill 799 - *Health Occupations – Limited License to Practice Dentistry – Services for Adults*. This bill permits more dental patients to be treated in public health dental clinics, and federally qualified health centers by limited licensed dentists and the bill provides these limited licensed dentists a pathway to a general license to practice in Maryland.

Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) is a network of federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) that serve underserved communities in urban, suburban, and rural areas across Maryland. FQHC dental clinics are major components of the dental safety net system, providing essential oral healthcare services to underserved populations. Building and expanding dental clinics and retaining dental providers within existing FQHCs is an important strategy to bridge the gap between medical and dental services offered by FQHCs.

At the start of 2023 Maryland Medicaid expanded to cover adult dental services for over 800,000 Marylanders. This bill removes the pediatric dentistry restriction and would permit an internationally trained dentist to treat both adults and children on Medicaid and would provide a pathway to a general or unrestricted license in Maryland.

MCHS supports this bill because it will help federally qualified health centers recruit and retain dental providers and meet the needs of our patients. We request a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.