



## Maryland Community Health System

**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations

**Committee**

**Bill:** House Bill 23 – Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – Qualified health Plans – Dental Coverage

**Hearing Date:** January 25, 2024

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports House Bill 23 – Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – Qualified health Plans – Dental Coverage. Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers across the state whose mission is to provide care to underserved communities. MCHS supports legislative initiatives that remove barriers to access to care.

The bill requires all qualified health plans (QHPs) sold through the Maryland Health Benefits Exchange to include coverage for pediatric dental. Currently, all QHPs offered on the Maryland Exchange cover pediatric dental, however the law does not require a QHP to provide pediatric dental benefits. This bill would codify the status quo, which prevents the introduction of future QHPs on the exchange that lack this coverage and would require an individual to take additional steps in securing pediatric dental coverage.

We ask for a favorable report on House Bill 23. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy [mpaddy@policypartners.net](mailto:mpaddy@policypartners.net).