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Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 471 – Criminal Procedure – Victim Compensation -Alteration
(Victim Compensation Reform Act)

Hearing Date: February 9, 2024

Position: Favorable with Amendment

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition supports *Senate Bill 471 – Criminal Procedure – Victim Compensation – Alteration (Victim Compensation Reform Act)*. We are requesting a clarifying amendment to acknowledge that the victims services fund also covers dental injuries as the result of a crime.

We thank the Governor for introducing this legislation measure to ensure that the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board is equipped to meet the health care and related needs of victims of crime. When victims of crime cannot afford to have their injuries treated, they can face additional trauma.

We ask for an amendment to clarify that the fund also addresses dental injuries. These injuries can be devastating and impact the victim’s overall health status:

On page 3, insert “DENTIST” in line 6 after “PHYSICIAN”.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony, and we ask for a favorable vote on the bill with clarifying amendments. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders