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Date: February 12, 2025

Bill # / Title: Senate Bill 456 - Dental Services - Qualification for Maryland Dent-Care Program and Study on Use of Dental Online Credentialing

Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: Letter of Information

The Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide information regarding Senate Bill 456.

Senate Bill 456 seeks to alter the eligibility criteria for Higher Education Loan Assistance Grants under the Maryland Dent-Care program to include dentists and dental hygienists who are employed part time. The bill also requires the MIA to study whether dental insurance carriers are using an online credentialing system to process uniform credentialing forms and to report its findings, including any recommendations to expand utilization of an online credentialing system, to the General Assembly by December 1, 2025.

The MIA welcomes the opportunity to examine the utilization of online credentialing systems by dental insurance carriers to process uniform credentialing forms. However, the Agency respectfully proposes that the flexibility of the study's execution would be enhanced if Section 2's mandatory language were omitted, thereby granting the Agency the ability to undertake the study through a legislative request and optimizing resource allocation for this initiative.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of information. The MIA is available to provide additional information and assistance to the committee.