



Senate Finance Committee

February 12, 2025

Senate Bill 456 – *Dental Services – Qualification for Maryland Dent-Care Program and Study on Use of Dental Online Credentialing*

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers (MACHC) is the federally designated Primary Care Association for Delaware and Maryland Community Health Centers. As the backbone of the primary care safety net, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are united by a shared mission to ensure access to high-quality health care to all individuals, regardless of ability to pay. FQHCs are non-profit organizations providing comprehensive primary care to the medically underserved and uninsured. MACHC supports its members in the delivery of accessible, affordable, cost effective, and quality primary health care to those most in need. To this end, MACHC supports Senate Bill 456.

Senate Bill 456 expands eligibility for the Maryland Dent-Care Program to include dentists and dental hygienists employed on a part-time basis and requires the establishment of a prorated loan repayment assistance for any part-time dentists and dental hygienists participating in the program. The purpose of Maryland's Dent-Care Program is to increase access to oral health services for underserved Maryland Medicaid recipients by increasing the number of dentists and dental hygienists who treat that population.

FQHCs in Maryland provide dental services and play a primary role in providing essential oral healthcare services to underserved populations. However, FQHCs have experienced an increasing challenge to recruit and retain dental professionals. Expanding loan repayment assistance to qualified part-time dentists and dental hygienists will help address the dental provider shortage and enhance the ability to provide oral health care services to Maryland's medically underserved residents. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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