

Committee: Senate Finance
Bill Number: Senate Bill 508 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Required Coverage for Aesthetic Services and Restorative Care for Victims of Domestic Violence (Healing Our Scars Act)
Hearing Date: February 11, 2025
Position: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition strongly supports *Senate Bill 508 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Required Coverage for Aesthetic Services and Restorative Care for Victims of Domestic Violence (Healing Our Scars Act)*. The bill provides for Medicaid and private insurance coverage of aesthetic and restorative services for domestic violence survivors.

Domestic violence survivors must rely on pro bono services to address scarring and other physical signs of their trauma. This bill advances the dignity and wellbeing of domestic violence survivors by providing coverage for restorative and aesthetic services. We ask that the Committee consider amending the bill to include the services of dentists who are often the first providers to identify survivors by the lasting signs of trauma to the mouth and teeth.ⁱ Dentists also play an important role in providing restorative services.

On page 3 in lines 26-27, strike “PHYSICIAN WHO IS LICENSED” and replace with “PHYSICIAN, DENTISTS, OR OTHER HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONER WHO IS LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE”

We ask for a favorable report with this amendment. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

ⁱ <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/edt.12897>