



**The Maryland State Dental Association Supports, with Amendment, SB 508 –
Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Required
Coverage for Aesthetic Services and Restorative Care for Victims of Domestic
Violence**

Respectfully Submitted by Daniel T. Doherty, Jr. on behalf of the MSDA

SB 508 would require the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, health maintenance organizations, insurers and nonprofit service planes to provide coverage for the victims of domestic violence for aesthetic services and restorative care. The bill conditions the coverage for the treatment of physical injuries that were caused by domestic violence on a determination by a Maryland licensed physician that the treatment of the injuries is medically necessary.

This coverage is vitally important to these victims, and up to 50% of the trauma suffered by domestic violence victims is to the face, neck and head. These injuries include fractured teeth, jaws and facial bones as well as damage to full and partial dentures and/or implants etc. Failure to have these conditions treated adversely affects the victims' ability to eat, talk and swallow. In addition, the resulting damage to their appearance and other after effects can increase the post traumatic impact of the violence. A large percentage of these injuries are treated by dentists - general dentists, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, and other dental specialties.

Given the type of facial and head injuries sustained by these victims, and the recognition that dentists often are the appropriate health care provider to diagnose and treat these conditions, dentists should be included among the Maryland licensed providers who may make determinations of the medical and dental necessity of the covered aesthetic services and restorative care. The Maryland State Dental Association therefore requests that SB 508 be amended as follows: **On page 3 in line 26 following “MEDICALLY” insert “OR DENTALLY”, and following “PHYSICIAN” insert “OR A DENTIST”.**

The Maryland State Dental Association respectfully requests the HB 381 be reported favorably with amendment by the Committee.

Submitted by Daniel T. Doherty, Jr.
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