

| Committee:    | Senate Finance Committee                                |
|---------------|---|
| Bill Number:  | House Bill 869 – Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025 |
| Hearing Date: | March 20, 2025  |
| Position:     | Support   |

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) strongly support *House Bill 869 – Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025*. The legislation preserves telehealth reimbursement policy enacted initially by the Maryland General Assembly in 2021. By removing the sunset date for audio-only and payment parity provisions, the legislation makes these provisions part of Maryland's permanent telehealth reimbursement policies.

MDAC supports the legislation because Teledentistry can be transformational for care provided in rural communities.<sup>1</sup> Teledentistry connects individuals with specialists outside of their area, which is particularly important for people with urgent dental needs. Teledentistry also allow helps people who face transportation challenges, including people in rural areas and those with mobility issues.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at <u>relliott@policypartners.net</u>.

<sup>i</sup> <u>https://www.jrmds.in/articles/teledentistry-for-underserved-populations-an-evidencebased-exploration-of-access-outcomes-and-implications.pdf</u>