

**Maryland Association of School Health Nurses**



**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill Number:** House Bill 1143 – Dental Services – Dental Hygienists in Schools and School-Based Health Centers and the Maryland Collaborative to Improve Children’s Oral Health Through School-Based Services

**Hearing Date:** March 7, 2025

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Association of School Health Nurses (MASHN) strongly supports *House Bill 1143 – Dental Services – Dental Hygienists in Schools and School-Based Health Centers and the Maryland Collaborative to Improve Children’s Oral Health Through School-Based Services*. The bill establishes an interdisciplinary collaborative to create a roadmap to improving children’s oral health through school-based dental programs.

MASHN was deeply troubled by the 2022-2023 Children’s Oral Health Survey conducted by the Maryland Department of Health. MDH found that 51% of Maryland’s school children needed sealants, with Black children at the highest prevalence of need at 60% and the Western region of the State with the highest sealant need at 72%.<sup>i</sup>

We need to improve the oral health of children across Maryland. We ask for a favorable vote on this legislation to establish the Collaborative. If we can provide any information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

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<sup>i</sup> <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/oralhealth/Documents/SchoolSurveySummary2023.pdf>