



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

**Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners**

Spring Grove Hospital Center - Benjamin Rush Bldg.  
55 Wade Ave/Tulip Drive  
Catonsville, MD 21228

March 4, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: HB 849 - Maryland Commission to Study the Dental Hygienist Shortage-Dental Board-Support with Amendment

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners respectfully submits this support with amendment position paper for HB 849-Maryland Commission to Study the Dental Hygienist Shortage. The bill establishes a Commission to assess the dental hygienist shortage in the State and make recommendations regarding methods to improve the recruitment and retention of dental hygienists in public and private settings; expand dental hygiene education opportunities at institutions of higher learning; increase retention of dental hygiene students through educational support and wraparound services; and supporting dental assistants and community health workers in accessing dental hygiene educational opportunities. The Commission is charged with submitting an interim report on or before December 1, 2025, and a final report on or before December 1, 2026.

The Board supports the establishment of the Commission but believes that the Commission should include a dental hygienist member of the Dental Board since the Board's dental hygienist members possess first-hand knowledge and experience in the field, and related dental hygiene issues and obstacles that arose during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, the Dental Board offers the following amendment:

On page 2, in line 25 strike "**and**"; in line 26 strike "." and substitute ";" and add

**(VII) ONE DENTAL HYGIENIST REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MARYLAND DENTAL BOARD.**

For the foregoing reasons, the Board requests that the Committee adopt the Board's amendment.

I hope that this information is helpful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at 202-997-2606 or [chiyo.alie@maryland.gov](mailto:chiyo.alie@maryland.gov).

The opinion of the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners expressed in this support with amendment position does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the administration.

Sincerely,  
*Chiyo Alie, D.D.S.*  
Chiyo Alie, D.D.S.  
Board President