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Bill Number: House Bill 871 – Health Services Cost Review Commission - Community Benefits - Community Health Worker Workforce Program

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Hearing Date: February 26, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) strongly supports *House Bill 871 – Health Services Cost Review Commission – Community Benefits – Community Health Worker Workforce Program*. The legislation provides that hospitals can include community health worker programs that meet certain requirements on their community benefits reports.

Community health workers can have a significant impact on improving the oral health of their communities and increasing access to dental homes.ⁱ Community health workers help people find dental providers, find transportation to appointments, and provide information on oral health. This legislation helps Maryland advance the integration of community health workers into healthcare models by identifying a financing mechanism. With the Total Cost of Care Model, it makes sense for hospitals to invest in community health worker programs.

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

ⁱ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34029018/>

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders