

HB 723 Favorable
(CF SB 749)

Written Testimony in Support of HB 723

From Charles A. Doring DDS

A Maryland Healthy Smiles (Dental Medicaid) Provider

(Submitted 2/21/2025 for hearing 2/21/2025)

Dear Members of the House Health & Government Operations Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide oral & written testimony in support of HB 723. I am a general dentist in a small group practice in Rockville that employes a team of 15 dental health providers and support staff. I am also the president-elect of the Maryland State Dental Association (MSDA) as well as a Dean's Faculty member at our University of Maryland School of Dentistry. I was a member of the 2022 Maryland Legislative Oral Health Care Task Force charged with finding solutions to dental health care disparities. I am speaking to you as an individual and Dental Medicaid provider to you today.

There have been occasions when Maryland Licensed Dentists and Dental Hygienists need urgent coverage to provide patient care in cases of maternity, emergency medical, or family leave. Dental practioners may call on fellow practioners across jurisdictions to assist in providing coverage for their office. To apply for an expedited license under this proposal, the practioners will have to meet all the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners requirements for licensure in Maryland that currently exist. It should be noted, a similar expedited licensure process by the Dental Board has already been in existence for some time for military and their spouses. Expedited licensure allows that dental office down time is minimized and quality patient dental care can continue with minimal interruption.

Like many health occupations, dentistry has experienced an axillary workforce shortage that has never recovered since COVID-19. Dental Radiation Technologists (DRT) play a vital role in patient care and safety. DRT's, are certified by the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners after completing course work and testing by the Dental Assisting National Board. HB 723 would include DRT Certification in an expedited fashion. There have been reports of DRT's currently certified & practicing in Virginia waiting several months to become certified in Maryland.

Please do not confuse this legislation with several current bills dealing with "compacts". Health provider compacts are agreements between states with oversight by a "compact board" that may or may not have standards of licensure or privilege as high as our dental board. HB 723 is just a process for expedited licensure for dentists/dental hygienists and certification for Dental Radiation Technologists for those individuals who meet licensure/certification standards currently in place by the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners.

For theses reasons, I ask that HB 723 be given a favorable report.