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HB 573 / SB 792

Testimony in Support

Tarun "Ty" Saini, DDS

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My name is Dr. Tarun Saini and I am a second-generation, Board-Certified Orthodontist, living and practicing in Columbia, Maryland. I am also a faculty member in the Department of Orthodontics at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, New York University College of Dentistry and hold privileges in the Department of Surgery at Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center.

My father started our practice 55 years ago. In the past 7 years, we have experienced unparalleled difficulty attracting new employees to become orthodontic assistants. However, we could always rely on easily accessible courses they would need to complete, on their path to becoming licensed orthodontic assistants.

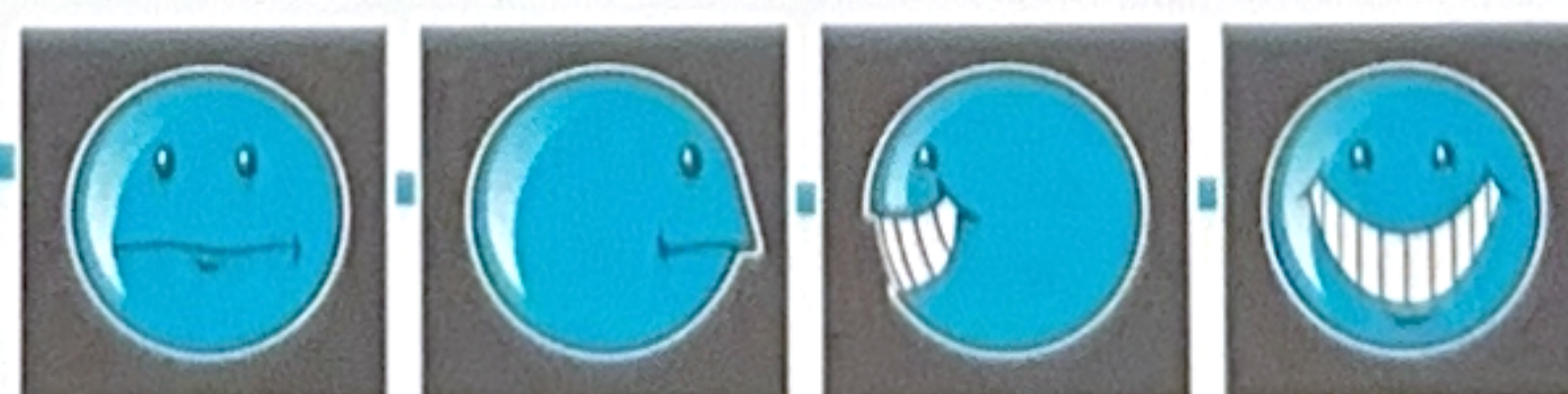
Many times, these individuals have family obligations after a full day of work at our office. Coupled with the fact that not everyone lives close to an in-person orthodontic assistant training class, there is additional stress they experience when commuting to school. The inability to take an online course, such as Trapezio, places an unnecessary burden on the potential workforce in my specialty.

As orthodontists, we treat a multitude of complex diagnoses, including cleft lip and palate, trauma, TMJ dysfunction and more. As small business owners, we rely on trained staff (licensed orthodontic assistants) to assist us with the delivery of care. These individuals are healthcare care providers and ambassadors of our businesses. It is therefore in our best interest (and for my patients), to educate and train to the highest standards. Taking an in-person or online course still requires hands-on training in our offices, under the supervision of a licensed orthodontist – a Maryland regulation that has existed for years and will continue to under this bill.

The process has worked in the past -- Trapezio was on the list of previously approved courses and is endorsed by the American Association of Orthodontists. What evidence is there that the existing educational pathway in Maryland was faulty? On-line classes will continue to bring greater access to Marylanders across the state, especially in rural communities. In my humble opinion, access to care starts with access to education.

For these reasons, I ask for a favorable report on HB 573 / SB 792.

Braces for Adults and Children



before

after

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