

RE: HB771 (Harrison) Student Health -Program for Student Dental Health – Established –
FAVORABLE

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rachael Simon and I am a pediatric dentist practicing in Maryland . I have been practicing for 25 years . I am in favor of this bill because I believe it is essential for parents to understand the importance of dental health and establishing a dental home . In May 2003 the American Academy of pediatrics issued a policy statement urging dental exams for very young children stating they should have an oral health assessment by 6 months and see a dental health professional by one year of age. This policy is important to allow a family to establish a dental home similar to the concept of a medical home and have a place to go to address and educate parents regard dental health issues. This will set families up for a lifetime of good oral health and health habits.

Early Childhood caries is a major oral health problem that affects preschool children worldwide. Dental infection can lead to pain and problems and if they are not addressed can cause a decrease in concentration and learning . I believe this bill will help families and children have a better quality of life by allowing them access to dental care and a dental home at an early age to prevent dental decay .

Thank you for your consideration

Rachael Simon DDS

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