



## **House Bill 771 - Student Health – Program for Student Dental Health – Established**

### **Position: FAVORABLE**

The Maryland Academy of Pediatric Dentists (MdAPD) strongly supports HB 771 which directs students in public schools to submit a certificate of dental health before entering school. The bill also directs Public Schools to provide information to parents and students on the importance of dental exams and identifies resources to pay for and find a dentist.

Early intervention is important when dealing with any medical condition including dental care. This is particularly true with children whose dental issues can become complicated very quickly if left untreated. Too many pediatric dentists have experience with young children and serious dental problems. Young children and children with special needs often cannot be treated in a normal dental office. Early visits with a dentist prevent more serious problems and less chance a child will need to be treated in a hospital.

Poor dental health not only undermines a student's overall health, but it also impacts a student's success in school. Children with chronic pain and discomfort miss more days of school and are more distracted when attending school.

HB 771 is an important step forward for the health and academic success of Maryland children and MdAPD encourages a favorable report.

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