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To: Senator Pamela Beidle, Finance Committee Chair
Members, Finance Committee
From: Leslie E. Grant, DDS, MSPA
Board Member, Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners
RE: HB 373
Date: March 22, 2026

Thank you, for graciously allowing this testimony in support of House Bill 373, “State Board of Dental Examiners – Disciplinary Action and Unannounced Inspections”. My name is Dr. Leslie Grant. I am a general dentist and speech and language pathologist. Currently, I am serving in the fourth year of my second and final term on the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners. I have chaired the Board’s Infection Control and Biosafety Committee for several years, and would like to request your support of a significant semantic change this Bill offers that brings infection control language up to date and commensurate with Centers for Disease Control Guidance.

Presently, our regulations reference the term “Universal Precautions”. That term was replaced with the terminology of “Standard Precautions” several years ago. “Standard Precautions” expand the concept of protection from risks associated with disease transmission. Universal Precautions primarily included bloodborne pathogens, and focused on health care worker safety. The current terminology of “Standard Precautions” includes not only bloodborne pathogens, but also incorporates respiratory or airborne microorganism transmission as well. It expands safety protections not only to Health Care Workers, but also to patients and other contacts. The use of the term “Universal Precautions” is outdated, inappropriate and misleading. When quoting our regulations in presentations, I have had to resort to adding “Standard Precautions” in brackets, as well as an explanation to ensure the attendees are accurately informed.

I again thank the Committee for your consideration. I do support the disciplinary aspects of House Bill 373, however it was important for me to offer this clarification and explanation as to the significance of incorporating this change in language to “Standard Precautions”. I request your favorable support of House Bill 373.