



**Maryland**  
**DENTAL HYGIENISTS'**  
**ASSOCIATION**

February 4, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

SENATE BILL 120 - HEALTH INSURANCE – REQUIRED BENEFITS FOR DENTAL  
PREVENTATIVE CARE – FREQUENCY LIMITATION INTERVAL (HEALTH MOMS AND  
FAMILY SMILES ACT)

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Dental Hygienists Association (MDHA) is the professional association for dental hygienists providing services in Maryland. As an organization, MDHA seeks to improve the public's total health by advancing the art and science of dental hygiene, including ensuring access to quality oral health care, increasing awareness of the cost-effective benefits of preventative dental services, promoting the highest standards of dental hygiene education, licensure, practice and research, and representing and promoting the interests of dental hygienists in Maryland.

In keeping with those goals, MDHA takes this opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 120 which lessens from 120 days to 90 days, the amount of time that an insurance carrier may limit the frequency of coverage for dental preventive care, as defined in statute. The bill would provide patients and families with more flexibility of coverage for essential preventative care. This helps lower the cost of oral health in Maryland by increasing access to preventative care, which can deter the need for more costly restorative services in the future. As this Committee knows, oral health care is often neglected by patients and in times when healthcare costs are increasing, it is commonly the first type of health services sacrificed due to challenges from cost and/or access. Incentivizing coverage and access to this care and giving patients more flexibility to coverage through their insurance is a simple, but essential step in prioritizing and protecting care.

Maryland has been a longtime leader in emphasizing the importance of oral health and the essential role of preventative services and the practitioners who provide those services. SB120 is another valuable tool in that vital public health initiative and MDHA thanks Senator Ellis and the members of the Finance Committee for their continued leadership on this issue. MDHA respectfully urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 120.