



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Letter of Information – SB 511 – Task Force on Oral Health in Maryland

Dear Chair Kelley and Committee Members:

The Department of Health (MDH) submits this letter of information on SB 511 – Task Force on Oral Health in Maryland.

The committee should be aware that the work of the proposed task force would be duplicative of efforts undertaken by MDH and the Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC). The Medical Assistance Program, in conjunction with the Office of Oral Health, submits an annual oral health access report (originally required by SB 598 – Ch. 113 of the Acts of 1998) under Health-General Article, §13-2504(b). The report includes information on Medicaid dental utilization and expenditures, as well as information on the actions taken by the Department and Office of Oral Health to increase access to dental services and overall oral health in the State.

The Office of Oral Health (OOH) was established in 1996 to address a myriad of dental or oral diseases affecting the State's neediest children and adults. The mission of OOH is to improve the oral health of Maryland residents through a variety of public oral health initiatives and interventions. MDAC's mission is to develop and maintain a statewide partnership of individuals and organizations working together to improve the health of all Marylanders through increased oral health promotion, disease prevention, education, advocacy and access to oral health care. In 2018, the organization published a five-year strategic plan to improve access, oral health literacy, and oral disease prevention in the State. Additionally, in 2016, the Hilltop Institute prepared a report for MDAC assessing the potential cost to expand dental services available through the Medicaid Program. I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Director of Governmental Affairs Webster Ye at (410) 260-3190 or webster.ye@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Neall
Secretary