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The Honorable Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass
Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
District 13- Howard County
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 921 | Dentist-Saliva Lead Poisoning Screening Tests Scope of Practice and Requirements

Dear Delegate Pendergrass,

I bring you warm greetings and petition that the Maryland Health and Government Operations Committee consider the legislation of lead poison screening with great deliberation. The most helpless sector of our community depends on us to care for their wellbeing and future. Primary prevention for lead poisoning is a prime method in ensuring their optimal health.

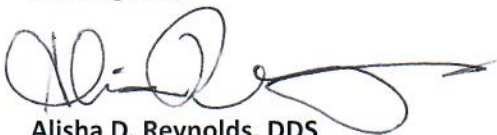
A report completed by the CDC entitled, "Low Level Lead Exposure Harms Children: A renewed Call for Primary Prevention," makes a strong emphasis on primary prevention, rather than reaction to exposure to the irreversible deleterious effects of lead poisoning. These effects concern the cognitive function, cardiovascular, immunological, and endocrine health of children.

Due to the comprehensive nature of exposure in the community, screening should not just be confined to the invasive and frightening method of blood testing. Lead is readily detectable in the saliva, and can be safely and noninvasively screened in the dental office through collection of saliva.

In my profession of Pediatric Dentistry, children from various backgrounds are treated on a daily basis. A simple exam such as saliva screening would be sensible and painless. There is undeniable evidence that supports early prevention of lead poisoning, and I implore you to deeply consider passing the legislature to enable dentists to administer lead screening for each and every Maryland child.

Thank you for your consideration!

Best regards,



Alisha D. Reynolds, DDS