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Judicial Proceedings Committee

Vice Chair, Baltimore County
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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February 10, 2021

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

RE: SB 465 – Maryland Medical Assistance Programs – Dental Providers and Dental Students - Reimbursement

Dear Chairman Kelley and Members of the Committee:

This bill is a follow-on bill to Senator Middleton’s 2018 bill which became Chapter 621 that year. Chapter 621 established a pilot program to provide limited dental coverage to adults who are dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. This program is now up and operating, and licensed Maryland dentists are providing care to adult patients who qualify under the program.

Some of the dentists who render dental services to patients under the auspices of the program are using dental students at Maryland dental schools to assist in treating patients. This is authorized under Maryland law because the dental students are operating under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist who is a Medicaid provider.

This very simple bill merely provides that the Maryland Department of Health shall reimburse a dental provider for Medicaid-related services provided under this program that are performed by a dental student acting under the supervision of a dentist. Thus this bill enables dental students to participate in externships at dental practices that specialize in Medicaid work and incentivizes these students to take on Medicaid patients themselves once the students become licensed to practice dentistry.

I hope the Committee will issue a favorable report on this bill.