



The Honorable Paul Pinsky  
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 1, 2022

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 62 – PHARMACISTS – AIDS FOR THE CESSATION  
OF TOBACCO PRODUCT USE**

Dear Chair Pinsky:

The Maryland Dental Hygienists Association (MDHA) is an organization seeking 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 that mission, MDHA takes this opportunity to voice its support for Senate Bill 66 which would increase access to aids for the cessation of the use of tobacco products.

HB62 expands the scope of practice for a qualified licensed pharmacist to include prescribing and dispensing nicotine replacement medications approved by the FDA as tobacco cessation aids. The use of tobacco products significantly impacts oral health, causing serious health conditions affecting the mouth and oral cavity, including oropharyngeal cancer, gum disease and recession, tooth decay, bone loss, failure of dental implants, canker sores, and stained teeth. MDHA supports policies that increase patient access to products that can aid with cessation of the use of tobacco, including having them more readily available and accessible through licensed pharmacists.

MDHA thanks Senator Washington and the members of the Committee for their leadership on dental health matters and looks forward to working with all stakeholders to improve oral health in Maryland. MDHA urges the Committee's favorable consideration of Senate Bill 62.