

My name is Holly Freyer and I am a dental hygienist who has been providing preventative dental care in Maryland for 22 years. As a licensed and experienced dental hygienist, I have serious concerns with Senate Bill 714/House Bill 968, which would substantially expand the scope of practice for dental assistants to include dental services currently provided **only** by licensed dentists and licensed dental hygienists. While I recognize the essential and supportive role dental assistants play in providing services, the expanded functions permitted in Senate Bill 714/House Bill 968 require specialized education, training and evaluation in order to be performed properly.

It is essential to patient safety that the law ensures that anyone who is performing “expanded function” services under this legislation meets the education and training standards that are statutorily required for other practitioners. On behalf of myself and the Maryland Dental Hygienists Association, I urge the legislature to **OPPOSE** Senate Bill 714/House Bill 968 **UNLESS** if the following requirements are included in the legislation:

1. Qualifying Dental Assistants shall be at least 18 years old;
2. Training and Education shall be completed in an Accredited Educational Program;
3. Expanded function dental assistants required to be licensed through the Maryland State Board of Examiners
4. Successfully pass the CDCA Monitoring Nitrous Oxide Exam
5. Coronal Polishing is removed from the expanded scope of practice.

These requirements will help ensure that Maryland patients continue to receive the same level of high-quality preventative care from a well-trained and qualified practitioner, and ensure standardization in training and services across all of Maryland’s dental professionals.