

Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

5900 Abriana Way, Elkridge, Maryland 21075

From: Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

To: Chairman Shane Pendergrass

Re: HB 06 Maryland Medical Assistance Program-Dental Coverage for Adults

Date:

Dear Chairman Pendergrass,

The Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. is in Favor of HB 06

We represent the Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition (Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness). We were established in 2000, our mission is "To create an atmosphere of understanding in dentistry and other professional communities which will result in the prevention of abuse and neglect through early identification and appropriate intervention for those who have been abused or neglected." Dentists and Dental Hygienists (Dental Professionals) are mandated by the State of Maryland to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect. Our coalition has established a Continuing Education (CE) course that educates Dental Professionals and others how to recognize, report, or refer. The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners has deemed this course as a mandatory CE requirement for Dentists and Hygienists to renew their licenses. We also address domestic violence, elder abuse, human trafficking and bullying in our CE course

Maryland is one of only three states without mandated adult dental coverage in Medicaid. This population is already at risk and by not providing dental services for them we are only compounding the challenges they face. By providing Adult Medicaid services their dental health will be improved resulting in improved general health. It is proven that dental health is linked with heart disease, diabetes, low birth weight babies and may influence respiratory conditions. Their potential for employment will improve, and in some cases their speech and facial features will also be affected positively and improve their self-esteem. This would be such a positive result for this population, for these reasons we ask for a positive vote on HB 06. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

Carol Caiazzo, RDH President

Susan Camardese, RDH, MS Vice President Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition