



Chair Shane E. Pendergrass
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Honorable Chair Pendergrass:

As a diabetes social worker, I strongly support House Bill 6 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Coverage for Adults. The coverage will open close the gap in dental needs for all persons living on fixed incomes and in need of dental care over the age of 65.

People with diabetes have slower infection and wound healing because of the disease. Many of these individuals receive emergent dental care only and don't routinely care for their dental health. The lack of coverage prohibits the overall health of these individuals whose immunity is already compromised. Increased preventative medicines will ultimately remove a burden and a cost to the individual and the state over the long-term.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Meaghan Tine at mtine@som.umaryland.edu.

Sincerely,

Meaghan Tine, LMSW

Glucose Management Team

University of Maryland Medical Center