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In Senior Care and Services*

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Bonnie Cullison

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

DATE: February 9, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 6 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Coverage for Adults*

On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the largest and most diverse senior care provider association in Maryland representing nursing facilities, assisted living providers, continuing care retirement communities, medical adult day care centers, senior housing communities and other home and community-based services, we **support** House Bill 6. House Bill 6 requires the State to cover adult dental services under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

For residents in a nursing facility, Medicaid does not cover dental services, such as exams or treatment, whether the care is provided in or out of the nursing home. Most often, these services are absorbed by the nursing facility. The nursing facility can then apply to the Department to alter the resident's resources amount to enable the resident to reimburse the facility, an efficient and time-consuming process which is not in the best interest of the resident. Requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to cover dental care for residents in a nursing facility is a necessary and vital step to ensure resident's overall health.

Therefore, LifeSpan supports House Bill 6 with the qualifier that the expansion extends to residents in nursing facilities and any other individual residing in a setting where he/she is receiving waiver services, such as an assisted living community.

For more information call:

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