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**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 228 - Maryland Health Benefit Exchange - Qualified Health Plans - Dental Coverage

**Hearing Date:** January 24, 2024

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) supports Senate Bill 228 - *Maryland Health Benefit Exchange - Qualified Health Plans - Dental Coverage*. MDAC is a leading oral health policy and advocacy organization who works to improve the health of all Marylanders through increased oral health promotion, disease prevention, education, advocacy and access to oral health care. This bill promotes the continued integration of medical coverage and dental coverage into one health plan.

The bill would specifically continue the State's commitment to ensuring all qualified health plans (QHPs) sold through the Maryland Health Benefits Exchange include coverage for pediatric dental. Currently, all QHPs offered on the Maryland exchange cover pediatric dental. This bill would codify the status quo, and prevent the future introduction of QHPs on the Exchange that lack pediatric dental coverage and would require an individual to take additional steps in securing pediatric dental coverage.

We ask for a favorable report on this bill. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Micheal Paddy at [mpaddy@policypartners.net](mailto:mpaddy@policypartners.net).

***Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders***