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Support with Amendment HB 786 & SB 799 –  
Health Occupations – Limited License to Practice Dentistry – Adult Serviced  
Submitted by Charles A. Doring DDS

HB 786 & SB 799 will help improve the number and diversity of dentists able to provide care to some of the neediest in Maryland. The intent of the bill is to allow a mechanism for internationally trained 2-year Advanced Educational General Dentistry (AEGD) post residents to be contracted with a FQHC for a minimum of two years and afterwards have a pathway for general dental licensure in Maryland. Studies show patients are more likely to avail themselves to dental care if there is a cultural and language connection between provider and patients. In current law there is a pathway for internationally trained pediatric dentists. This bill will expand the potential pool of general dentists to provide care to patients of all ages.

In discussions with the faculty of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) and the Maryland State Dental Association (MSDA), the bill needs a friendly amendment to fulfill the intent of the bill. I fully support the MSDA proposed amendment as outlined in their testimony. Below in my reasons for such an amendment.

As currently stated in the bill, post residents are defined "dental fellow"s at UMSOD. UMSOD currently does not offer AEGD "fellowship" as they do in pediatric dentistry. As written, on p.2 lines 11 & 12, this will not fulfill the intent of this bill as intended by Maryland Community Health Systems (MCHS) who authored the bill. For clarification and workability of the bill, I submit the following proposed amendment to p. 2 line 11 & 12 of HB 786 & SB 799:

(iii) Either is a pediatric dental fellow, [or] has successfully completed a pediatric dental fellowship, **or has successfully completed an Advanced Education in Dentistry 2-year residency**, at the University of Maryland **School of Dentistry** [Dental School].

The amendment goal is to:

- 1) Preserve the current Pediatric Dentistry pathway.
- 2) Clarify the AEGD pathway (note the AEGD program can be a 1 year or 2-year certificate program at UMSOD).
- 3) Correct the name of our dental school.

I hope the makers and sponsors of this bill will consider this a friendly amendment, so we do not have unintended consequences later. For these reasons, I request the Maryland State Dental Association proposed amendments be adopted and HB 786 / SB 799 be given a favorable report.