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**www.mdac.us**

**MDAC ACHIEVES TRIPLE SUCCESS IN ORAL HEALTH**

**ACCESS AND EQUITY IN 2021 SESSION**

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| (COLUMBIA, MD – April 12, 2021) - The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) celebrates triple successes in its legislative advocacy in oral health access and equity.  “As session draws to a close today, I am amazed at the advancements we made,” said Mary Backley, Chief Executive Officer of MDAC. “In the midst of this year’s challenges, we had not just one, but three, victories with legislation that ensures more Marylanders have equitable access to oral health care.”  Today is known as sine die, the last day of the 90-day Maryland legislative session.MDAC led the advocacy efforts to expand access to oral health care for pregnant and postpartum women to improve maternal and infant health outcomes:* Maryland will expand Medicaid postpartum coverage for all health care services, including oral health, from 60-days to 1-year.  The expansion plans have been codified through the enactment of Senate Bill 923 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Eligibility (Senator Mary Washington – District 43). Governor Hogan supports the initiative and has budgeted funds to begin the expansion in fiscal 2022.   This expansion builds upon MDAC’s prior success to add oral health coverage, set to begin this summer, to Medicaid’s 60-day postpartum coverage; and
* Maryland will establish a prenatal services grant program to serve individuals, including undocumented immigrants, who are not eligible for Medicaid.  At MDAC’s request, the program will be inclusive of oral health services.  The program is established through Senate Bill 777/House Bill 1349 - Public Health - Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Grant Program Fund (Senator Sarah Elfreth – District 30/Delegate Sample-Hughes – District 37A).
* MDAC coordinated the campaign to ensure equity between Medicaid and private insurance coverage for oral health services.  Since the enactment of 2012 legislation, Marylanders with private insurance have had greater flexibility in the timing of preventative oral health services.  Marylanders with Medicaid will have that same flexibility, starting in January 2022, with the enactment of Senate Bill 485/House Bill 547 Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Prophylaxis Care and Oral Health Exams (Senator Malcolm Augustine – District 47/Delegate Robbyn Lewis – District 46.

“This year’s success is a sign of the deepening commitment of the Maryland General Assembly to oral health, “ said Robyn Elliott, MDAC’s lobbyist. “We worked with our long-time legislative champions, Delegate Mike McKay and Senator Guzzone, to continue to build a solid base of legislative supporters. Now we have champions all throughout the Maryland General Assembly.”**Read the testimony** MDAC submitted in support of:[**Senate Bill 485 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Prophylaxis Care and Oral Health Exams**](https://files.constantcontact.com/f29af31a201/e7678718-ff31-4490-ad2b-94418b583475.pdf)[**Senate Bill 923 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Eligibility and Disenrollment**](https://files.constantcontact.com/f29af31a201/b37ec7ec-73f9-48f2-aec0-f14a552ab0c0.pdf)[**Senate Bill 777 - Public Health – Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Grant Program Fund**](https://files.constantcontact.com/f29af31a201/95254ca8-4fa8-431e-a8b3-c50d007cdfce.pdf)**Please join MDAC** in discussing the 2021 session and planning for the year ahead on April 19, 2021 at 2:30 PM via Zoom: [**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372514202?pwd=bUpCU2ZGbnhPd29mZUFmWjM3cU9SZz09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372514202?pwd=bUpCU2ZGbnhPd29mZUFmWjM3cU9SZz09)  |

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