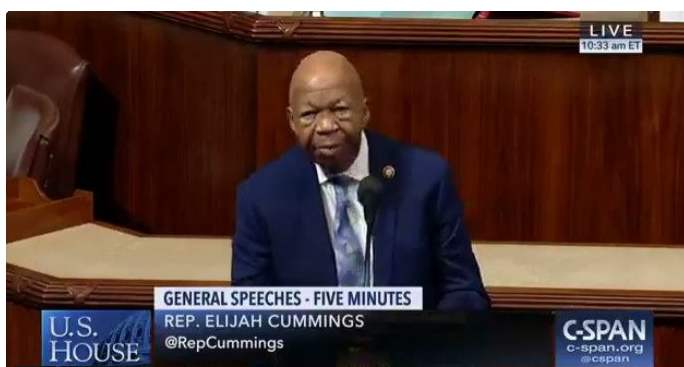


CUMMINGS ANNOUNCES PLAN TO REINTRODUCE DENTAL REFORM ACT Seeks to make dental care an essential health benefit

In a February 13, 2019 speech on the House floor, U.S. Representative Elijah Cummings (D-MD) spoke in support of National Children's Dental Health Month. He also announced his plan to reintroduce his comprehensive Dental Reform Act this Congress. A transcript of his remarks follows:

"Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize February as National Children's Dental Health Month and to raise awareness around the critically important issue of access to quality dental care for our Nation's children.



"The most prevalent chronic infectious disease among children in the United States is tooth decay. This disease is responsible for countless health problems in children and more than 51 million hours lost at school every year.

"However, this disease is preventable with basic dental care. Sadly, even with improvements in recent years, too many children are not able to access the quality dental care they need to simply stay healthy.

"I have a long history of advocating for increased access to dental care for all, particularly our Nation's young people. I have often said that our children are the living messengers we send to a future we will never see. That means that we must do everything in our power to ensure that they are healthy and given every opportunity to succeed.

"Today, I also rise to share the story of a young Maryland boy named Deamonte Driver. He died because of a lack of access to basic dental care.

"In February of 2007, 12-year-old Deamonte Driver came home from school with a simple headache, which had started as a toothache. His mother worked hard to make ends meet with all kinds of low-paying jobs. She searched for a dentist who would accept Medicaid for her children, but she found no dentist who would care for children's teeth.

"Deamonte's mother took him to the emergency room, where he received medication for pain, a sinus infection, and a dental abscess. Unfortunately, that was not enough. The bacteria from Deamonte's cavity spread to his brain, and, at 12 years old, Deamonte Driver died—12 years old. Deamonte could be alive today if it were not for the lack of a simple procedure and the early removal of one tooth.

"Deamonte's story is one we must never, ever forget. We must imprint it in the DNA of every cell of our brains.

"Fortunately, we have made great strides in access to dental care, particularly for children, since Deamonte's death in 2007. Passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act and the Affordable Care Act have filled the gaps in dental care for children who are eligible for these programs. This has given many children across this great Nation access to dental care and many families greater peace of mind regarding their children's health.

"Maryland has also made significant progress in access to dental healthcare over the last several years and now stands as a national model thanks, sadly, to Deamonte Driver. Through the work of many groups and organizations, more Maryland children are visiting a dentist, and dental health is a priority in our great State. In 2017, almost 70 percent of the Maryland children enrolled in Medicaid received at least one dental care service.

"The Maryland Department of Health also funds specific programs, such as the Oral Disease and Injury

Prevention Program and the Dental Sealants Program, that cares for and educates thousands of children, including right there at the schools.

"Yet, even with these improvements in access to education, there is more that must be done to protect dental health in honor of that little boy, Deamonte Driver. That is why I am proud to rise in support of dental care during Children's Dental Health Month and encourage everyone to take advantage of oral health education, screenings, preventive care, and restorative services in their community.

"It is also why I plan to reintroduce my Comprehensive Dental Reform Act this Congress, which, among other things, would provide comprehensive dental coverage to all Medicare, Medicaid, and VA beneficiaries and make dental care an essential health benefit for adults under the Affordable Care Act.

"Dental services must no longer be thought of as an optional health benefit for children or adults."

MDAC, COALITION PARTNERS TESTIFY IN SUPPORT OF SB 158/HB 332 **Bills would establish state capital grant program for oral health safety net system**



MDAC CEO Mary Backley testified before the Senate Finance Committee on February 6 and before the House Health and Government Operations Committee on February 13 in support of SB 158/HB 322, which would establish a Community Dental Clinics Grant Program.

If passed, the legislation would authorize the Board of Public Works, on the recommendation of the Secretary of Health, to make capital grants to non-profit community health centers to support dental programs. The legislation would require the

Governor to include funding in the State capital budget for the program beginning in FY 2021. Senator Guy Guzzone (D-Howard County) and Delegate Mike McKay (R-Allegany and Washington Counties) sponsored the bills.

Community health centers and private providers are critical components of the Medicaid provider network. The Community Clinics Grant Program would provide much-needed capital funding to enable community clinics to establish or expand dental services for the growing population of Marylanders needing immediate and on-going dental care. With the implementation of the Medicaid adult dental waiver program and a capital funding program to build capacity, Maryland will take a significant step forward to improve dental coverage and access to care for adults. The bill complements the existing capital grants programs for federally qualified health centers.

Pictured (left to right): Pat Papa, Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Centers, MDAC Board Member Nilesh Kalyanaraman, MD; MDAC Board Member Joy-Void Holmes; RHD, DHSc, President-Elect of the Maryland Dental Hygienists' Association; HB 332 sponsor Delegate Mike McKay (R-Allegany and Washington Counties); MDAC CEO Mary Backley; and MDAC policy consultant Robyn Elliott.

MDH OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH RELEASES 2018 LEGISLATIVE REPORT **Cites progress to improve access to care, disease prevention, oral health literacy**

Last month, the Maryland Medicaid Program and the Maryland Department of Health Office of Oral Health submitted a [legislative report](#) to the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly on efforts to improve oral health in Maryland.

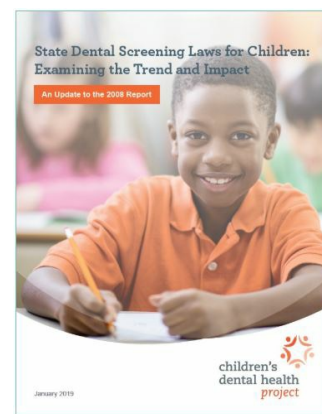
The report focused on key initiatives including access to dental care through the Maryland Medicaid Program; the results of the Oral Health Safety Net Program administered by the Office of Oral Health; the findings and recommendation of the Office of Oral Health's Oral Cancer Initiative; and related oral health issues. Oral health accomplishments, including community programs, federally-funded grant projects, expansion of oral health infrastructure, and access and utilization of Medicaid benefits were addressed. A copy of the report can be found [here](#).

CDHP RELEASES REPORT ON STATE DENTAL SCREENING LAWS **Report examines trends, impact**

The Children's Dental Health Project (CDHP) has produced a report of state laws that encourage school-age children to be screened for dental disease. Its research finds that dental screening laws (DSLs) have mixed results connecting children with needed care.

As of January 2019, screening laws exist in the District of Columbia and 14 states: California, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, and West Virginia. Since 2008, when CDHP produced its first review of screening laws, only three states have enacted DSLs. By the start of 2019, DSLs had been proposed in two additional states: Connecticut and Michigan.

Several factors limit screening laws from improving students' access to oral health care and effectively addressing dental disease among children. Based on key informant interviews, the report explores barriers and what drives them. But dental screening laws do hold great potential to support children's health. To that end, the report offers recommendations to make DSLs more effective. CDHP hopes the guidance is useful to advocates, policymakers, and other oral health stakeholders considering a DSL or assessing their states' current law. Read the report [here](#).



FAMILIES USA HOSTS HEALTH POLICY CONFERENCE

Oral health policy focus of pre-conference

As part of Health Action 2019, Families USA hosted an oral health pre-conference on January 23, 2019, a productive day full of oral health policy and advocacy discussions. Melissa Burroughs, Families USA's Oral Health Campaign Manager, has graciously shared these resources and materials from the meeting:

Resources from Oral Health Pre-Conference/Health Action Conference:

- Pre-Conference [Agenda](#) and [Attendee List](#)
- Pre-Conference [Slides](#)

Meeting packet materials:

- [Families USA's Medicare Priorities for 2019](#)
- [CMS Response to Rep Levin on Letter on Medically Necessary Dental Care](#)
- [Families USA Letter in Support of Sen. Cardin's Medicare Dental Act of 2019](#)
- [For Rural Seniors, Improving Oral Health Care Could Mean Better Health](#)
- [Treating Pain Is Not Enough: Why States' Emergency-Only Dental Benefits Fall Short](#)

Resources mentioned in sessions:

- Justice in Aging- [Medicare Dental Benefit Statutory Analysis](#)
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation- [A New Way to Talk About Social Determinants of Health](#)
- Sullivan Commission- [Report on Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce](#)
- ADA-HPI- [Medicaid Dental Reimbursement Rates by State](#) (2016 data)
- NADP- [Oral Health and Chronic Disease Cost Savings](#) (2017- to be updated this year)
- Qualis- [Oral Health Integration Guide](#)
- CDHP- [Report on State Dental Screening Laws for Kids](#)
- See the [Health Action 2019 Agenda](#) for workshop session slides (will be posted by 2/8)

All of these resources will also be posted to Socius, the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network's free online platform connecting oral health stakeholders to information, resources, and each other! If you haven't already, you can join more than 1,500 stakeholders invested in making oral health a reality for all by requesting a login at www.oralhealth.network.

CHRC AND MRHA RELEASE VIDEO ON RURAL HEALTH IN MD

Highlights impact of work to improve access to care

The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) and the Maryland Rural Health Association have released part one in a series of videos that demonstrate the impact of CHRC's work to support programs to improve access to care in rural Maryland.

The videos highlight innovative, sustainable, and replicable CHRC-funded programs in rural communities across the state, and include impactful stories from people who have benefited from these programs. [Click here](#) to view the first video.

The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) was created by the Maryland General Assembly in 2005 to expand access to health care services in underserved communities in Maryland. The CHRC is an independent commission operating within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), whose 11 members are appointed by the Governor. Since its inception, the CHRC has awarded 210 grants totaling \$64.1 million, supporting programs in every jurisdiction of the state. These programs have collectively served more than 468,000 Marylanders, and grants awarded by the CHRC have enabled

ORAL HEALTH AMERICA CEASES OPERATIONS

Was national oral health advocate for more than 60 years

Oral Health America (OHA), a national non-profit, ceased operations on Friday, February 1, 2019. Since 1955, OHA worked to change lives by connecting communities with resources to drive access to care, increase health literacy, and advocate for policies that improve overall health through better oral health for all Americans, especially those most vulnerable. OHA released the following statement:

"OHA has currently ceased, and does not intend to renew, active operations. The OHA Board has determined that, due largely to an unanticipated precipitous decline in contributions in the last quarter of 2018 and the unlikely renewal of sufficient contributions in the near future, OHA does not have and is not likely to have sufficient capital and reserves to continue as a going concern. OHA has therefore terminated its existing staff and is preparing documentation to implement a formal and orderly liquidation of its assets, and resolution of creditor claims, through applicable law. As part of its liquidation and final wind-down efforts, OHA is reviewing options to transition pending programs and projects to other entities which may have the financial ability to sustain or manage them; however, OHA cannot at this time guarantee that such options will be viable. As a result of the foregoing, persons or entities who intend to seek grants or other financial support from OHA, including those who have obtained such grants or financial support from OHA in the past, should seek such grants and financial support from other sources. As to persons or entities that have received pledges of financial support from OHA, please note that OHA will likely not have sufficient resources to honor such pledges and that such entities or persons will be notified in due course by appropriate authorities as to whether the proceeds of OHA's liquidation will result in any distribution on their creditor claims against OHA. OHA deeply regrets being unable to continue with its 65-year mission, and further regrets any hardship that may ensue from its liquidation.

"Any questions can be directed to info@oralhealthamerica.org and we will respond as soon as possible."

ORAL CANCER FOUNDATION SEEKS SPONSORS FOR 5K WALK/RUN

DMV event to be held April 27, 2019



The Oral Cancer Foundation's DMV 5K Walk/Run to raise awareness and early detection of oral cancers will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at Sligo-Dennis Avenue Park in Silver Spring, MD .

This year, more than 51,500 people in the United States will be newly diagnosed with oral cancer, which includes mouth, tongue, and throat cancer. Participants will receive information about risk factors, signs and

symptoms, and treatments of head and neck cancer. Free oral cancer screenings will be provided.

The Oral Cancer Foundation is seeking corporate sponsors to financially support this event and its current initiatives to raise awareness of oral cancers. For further information and sponsorship opportunities, contact Megan Blair, DMV OCF Event Coordinator at (443) 745-3625 or by e-mail at megan@bccoralsurgery.com.

“Dental services must no longer be thought of as an optional health benefit for children or adults.”

-U.S. Representative Elijah E. Cummings. (D-MD)

NEWS

[Del. McKay Seeks to Create MD Dental Clinic Grant Program](#)

[Gum Disease—Causing Bacteria Could Spur Alzheimer's](#)

2018-2023 MARYLAND ORAL HEALTH PLAN GOALS

[AAP Calls for Stronger Laws to Restrict Youth Access to e-Cigarettes](#)

[Almost 40% of American Kids Are Making This Simple Toothpaste Mistake, CDC Says](#)

[Don't Just Buy Toothpaste at CVS, Walgreens. Get Your Dental Care in Stores Too](#)

ARTICLES

[Use of Toothpaste and Toothbrushing Patterns Among Children and Adolescents — United States, 2013–2016](#)

[Disparities in the Quality of Pediatric Dental Care: New Research and Recommended Changes](#)

[Cost-Effectiveness of a US National Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax With a Multistakeholder Approach: Who Pays and Who Benefits](#)

[Association Between Water Fluoridation and Income-Related Dental Caries of US Children and Adolescents](#)

[What's Next for Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees? Findings from the Duals Symposium](#)

[Projecting the Economic Impact of Silver Diamine Fluoride on Caries Treatment Expenditures and Outcomes in Young U.S. Children](#)

[Older Americans are Keeping More of Their Teeth](#)

[Pediatric Oral Health: Fluoride Use Recommendations](#)

[5 Best, 5 Worst States for Dental Health](#)

[Oral Health is Crucial to Overall Health. So Why is Dental Insurance Separate from Health Insurance?](#)

[Tooth Loss Among Older Adults According to Poverty Status in the United States from 1999 through 2004 and 2009 through 2014](#)

[First, Do No Harm: Marshaling Clinician Leadership to Counter the Opioid Epidemic](#)

[Association Between Water Fluoridation and Income-Related Dental Caries of US Children and Adolescents](#)

[Helping Decipher Doctorspeak: Health Literacy and the Library Community](#)

Maryland Oral Health Plan

2018 - 2023



*Framework to Improve
the Oral Health of All
Marylanders*



MarylandDental
ActionCoalition

The 2018-2023 Maryland Oral Health Plan outlines 11 oral health goals in three key areas:

Access to oral health care:

- All Maryland children have comprehensive dental insurance coverage through public (Medicaid/MCHP) or private insurance.
- All Maryland adults have comprehensive dental insurance coverage through Medicaid or private insurance.
- All Maryland residents have a dental home.
- Strengthen the oral health safety net provider system.
- Integrate the oral health care system within the medical health care system.

Oral disease and injury prevention:

- Use data to advance optimal oral health for all Marylanders.
- Improve public awareness of oral disease and injury prevention.
- Promote community-based oral disease and injury prevention programs.

Oral health literacy and education:

- Increase understanding of the relationship between oral health and overall health, and promote good oral health practices and access to oral health care.
- Improve collaboration between oral health and other health and human services providers so that patients understand how to navigate the oral health care system and establish a dental home.
- Educate medical professionals and students about the importance of the

[Using Policy to Create Healthy Schools: Resources to Support Policymakers and Advocates](#)

[Interprofessional Prenatal Oral Health Project Produces Successful Outcomes](#)

[How Technology is Transforming the Dental Industry](#)

[Blueberries May Be “Juiced” What the Dentist Ordered](#)

[Study Links Oral Hygiene to Heart Health](#)

[To Fight Fatty Liver, Avoid Sugary Foods and Drinks](#)

[New ADA Guide Prepares Dental Teams for Medical Emergencies](#)

[Efforts to Expand Access to Oral Health Care to Continue in 2019](#)

[How to Integrate Oral Health into Pediatric Primary Care: Part 1](#)

EVENTS

[20th Annual National Quality Forum Conference, March 24-26, 2019](#)

[Society for Public Health Education Annual Conference, March 26-29, 2019](#)

[Open Forum for Quality Improvement and Innovation in Public Health, March 28-29, 2019](#)

[Seventh Annual Public Health Research at Maryland, April 2, 2019](#)

[Special Care Dentistry Association Annual Meeting, April 12-14, 2019](#)

[National Oral Health Conference, April 15-17, 2019](#)

[Santa Fe Group 2019 Salon: Comprehensive Health Without Oral Health: A Medicare Paradox, May 8-10, 2019](#)

[Public Health Learning Forum & TRAIN Learning Network Annual Meeting, May 20-23, 2019](#)

[2019 OSAP Annual Conference, May 30 - June, 2 2019](#)

[2019 National Medicaid/Medicare/CHIP Oral Health Symposium, June 1-3, 2019](#)

oral/systemic connection and foster collaboration between medical and dental disciplines and communities.

[**Download the plan now!**](#)

The Maryland Oral Health Plan is financially supported by the Maryland Department of Health.

WEBCASTS

[Caring for the Oral Health of Individuals with Special Needs](#)

[Dental Care and the Special Needs Patient](#)

[Why Won't He Sit Still? Because He Can't: Working Effectively with AD/HD in the Dental Office](#)

VIDEOS

[AIDPH Colloquium: Evolving the Dental Public Health Landscape: Interprofessional Practice and Value-Based Care](#)

[Silver Diamine Fluoride \(SDF\) Application: Evidence-Based Recommendations](#)

[How Fluoride Works](#)

[Surgeon General's Listening Session on Oral Health, Part One \(Welcome and Opening Remarks\)](#)

[Surgeon General's Listening Session on Oral Health, Part Two \(Burden of Disease\)](#)

[Surgeon General's Listening Session on Oral Health, Part Three \(Theme-Specific Presentations\)](#)

WEBINARS

[Applying Law and Policy Solutions to Public Health Challenges in the Coming Decade, February 20, 2019](#)

[The Promise of Dental Screening Laws to Improve Children's Oral Health, February 20, 2019](#)

[Advancing Health Equity through System Transformation: Strengthening the Evidence Base to Achieve Health Equity, February 21, 2019](#)

[12th Meeting of the Secretary's Advisory](#)

[ADA FDI World Dental Congress, September 4-8, 2019](#)

[Health Literacy in Action Conference, October 10-11, 2019 \(Save the date!\)](#)

[APHA Annual Meeting and Expo, November 2-6, 2019](#)

[Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2030, February 26, 2019](#)

[Making Sense of Numbers: Learning How to Communicate Health Statistics, February 28, 2019](#)

[The Impact of Nurses on Oral Health Across the Lifespan, March 13, 2019](#)

[Meeting the Oral Health Needs for People with Disabilities: A Training Program for Dentists and their Staffs, March 30, 2019](#)

ORAL HEALTH RESOURCES

ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH CARE

Medicaid

[Maryland Medicaid 101](#)

[Health Coverage Matters for Children: The Role of Medicaid in the Healthy Development of America's Children](#)

[Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) Scorecard](#)

[Medicaid Provider Reference Guide](#)

[State Strategies to Incorporate Oral Health into Medicaid Payment and Delivery Models for People with Chronic Medical Conditions](#)

Medicare

[Creating an Oral Health Benefit in Medicare: A Statutory Analysis](#)

[An Oral Health Benefit in Medicare Part B: It's Time to Include Oral Health in Health Care](#)

[America's Seniors Deserve Dental Coverage in Medicare: Martha's Story](#)

[Oral Health America Medicare Dental Toolkit](#)

Policy

[OH2020: Improving Systems to Ensure Oral Health for All](#)

[Trump Administration 'Public Charge' Rule Threatens Health Care for Immigrant Families, Including U.S. Citizen Children](#)

ORAL DISEASE AND INJURY PREVENTION

[Addressing Student Tobacco Use in Schools: Alternative Measures](#)

[FDA "The Real Cost" E-cigarette Prevention Posters](#)

[How Community Water Fluoridation Prevents Tooth Decay \(English\)](#)

[Extinguishing the Tobacco Epidemic in Maryland](#)

[E-Cigarettes, Research and Your Health: What Do We Know About E-Cigarettes?](#)

[Quick Facts on the Risks of E-Cigarettes for Kids, Teens, and Young Adults](#)

[Silver Diamine Fluoride \(SDF\) Application: Evidence-Based Recommendations](#)

[Diabetes and Oral Health](#)

[AAP: HPV Champion Toolkit](#)

[Oropharyngeal Cancer \(OPC\) and HPV Prevention in Children](#)

[Answering Questions About HPV Vaccine: A Guide for Dental Professionals](#)

[ASTDD Best Practice Approach Report: Use of Fluoride in Schools](#)

[ASTDD Emergency Preparedness Manual](#)

ORAL HEALTH LITERACY AND EDUCATION

[Steps for Toothbrushing at the Table: Growing Healthy Smiles in Early Care and](#)

RURAL HEALTH

[For Rural Seniors, Improving Oral Health Care Could Mean Better Health](#)

[The Rural Primary Care Practice Guide to Creating Interprofessional Oral Health Networks](#)

[NRHA Policy Brief: Improving Rural Oral Healthcare Access](#)

[Maryland Rural Health Plan](#)

[CMS Rural Health Strategy](#)

[Education Programs](#)

[Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: Practice Guidance for Maryland's Prenatal and Dental Providers](#)

[Hallways to Health: Creating a School-Wide Culture of Wellness](#)

[CDC: Tips for Teachers](#)

[AAP: Protect Tiny Teeth Toolkit](#)

[Fluorosis Facts](#)

[Common Questions About Fluoride](#)

[ASTDD: Oral Health Educational Resources for Home Visitors and Families: Environmental Scan](#)

**Support
Maryland Dental
Action Coalition Inc.**

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

[U.S. Senators \(MD\)](#)

[U.S. Representatives \(MD\)](#)

[Maryland State Legislators](#)



MDAC is pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Carolyn Brown, DDS, West Cecil Health Center
- LaChrisha Parker

Join us! To become a MDAC member, [click here](#).

CONTACT

Do you have events or announcements you'd like to share? Contact MDAC, and we'll make every effort to include them in our next newsletter, as space permits.

[Contact MDAC](#)

JOIN

MDAC is statewide coalition of clinical care providers, governments, non-profits, academic institutions, managed care organizations, foundations and associations working collaboratively to improve the health of all Marylanders through increased oral health promotion, disease prevention, education, advocacy and access to oral health care.

[Join MDAC](#)

FOLLOW US

