

## News

[ADEA State Update: National Governors Association Releases Ideas from 13 States to Improve Health Care](#)

[Gerontological Society of America Releases White Paper on Interprofessional Solutions for Improving Oral Health in Older Adults](#)

[Center for Healthcare Strategies Releases Summer Reading List](#)

[How the Dimock Center Improved Access to Dental Care for Children in Boston](#)

[Local Health Equity Work and Success Stories Outlined in New Guide](#)

## Upcoming Events

[2017 National Association of Local Boards of Health Conference, August 2-4, 2017](#)

[2017 Maryland Rural Health Conference, October 5-6, 2017](#)



**Next MDAC Membership Meeting**  
Tuesday, September 12, 2017  
5:30-7:30 PM  
8901 Herrmann Drive  
Columbia, MD 21045

## Resources

[University of Maryland School of Public Health: Healthy Mouths for You and Your Baby](#)

[University of Maryland School of Public Health: Healthy Mouths for You and Your Baby \(Spanish\)](#)

[Children's Oral Health: Healthy Teeth, Healthy Kids](#)

[Children's Oral Health: Healthy Teeth, Healthy Kids \(Spanish\)](#)

**Maryland Dental  
Action Coalition**  
*Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders*



## Mary Backley Appointed MDAC Executive Director

Mary Backley has been appointed Executive Director of the Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC). Prior to joining MDAC, Backley was Vice President for Finance and Administration at Grantmakers In Health, where she was widely credited for the successful development and implementation of multiple initiatives to grow its financial base of support. She also served as the Director of Operations and Public Relations at the National League of Families, an organization



dedicated to serving veterans and their families. In this role, she engaged with high-level representatives from various U.S. Government agencies, such as the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Congress, to discuss policy issues.

MDAC Board Chair Salliann Alborn said "Mary's passion for improving the lives of others, coupled with her expertise in strengthening organization infrastructure, financial health, and productivity will be an asset to MDAC, its members, and oral health stakeholders as we work together to promote oral health, prevent disease, and improve access to oral health care."

Backley has received multiple awards and recognition for her service, leadership, and commitment from organizations including Grantmakers In Health, National Human Rights Committee, and Department of Veterans Affairs.

Upon her appointment, Backley stated "I am honored to be a part of a dedicated alliance that has already made a tremendous impact on improving the health and well-being of all Marylanders. I am acutely aware of the importance of oral health and the need to advance public awareness, improve access to prevention and care, and enhance policy, citizen advocacy, workforce development, and delivery system performance. I look forward to working with MDAC members, colleague organizations, and other champions to achieve optimal oral health for all Maryland residents."

## U.S. Senate Moves to Repeal, Replace ACA

This week, the United States Senate approved a motion to proceed to debate the American Health Care Act of 2017 (H.R. 1628), the bill passed by the House in May.

After two hours of debate, the Senate voted on the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA) of 2017 with the Cruz amendment, essentially a substitute to H.R. 1628. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates the bill would increase the number of uninsured by 22 million and reduce Medicaid spending by 26% in 2026; reduce insurance premiums for younger, healthier and wealthier people and increase premiums for older and poorer people; and allow insurers to offer plans that do not adhere to all of the law's rules, including those that protect people with pre-existing conditions. The bill was defeated 43-57.

On Wednesday, the Senate reconvened to debate the Obama Repeal Reconciliation Act (ORRA), the 2015 bill that would repeal the Affordable Care Act, but delay its implementation for two years. The bill would end

## Legislative Contacts

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

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

[Maryland State Legislators](#)

Medicaid expansion (ending dental benefits for millions of adults) and employer mandates and, according to the CBO, increase the number of uninsured by 32 million by 2026, including 19 million who would lose Medicaid. It is estimated that under this bill, insurance premiums would rise by 25% in 2018 and double by 2026. Maryland Senators Ben Cardin and Chris van Hollen voted against both bills.

The Senate now plans a vote on a "skinny repeal" plan that would eliminate the individual and employer mandates and the tax on medical device makers. Elimination of the individual mandate would result in loss of coverage for 15 million people, and a 20% rise in individual premiums. Passage of the "skinny repeal" plan would open the door to further moves to end Medicaid expansion, deep cuts and caps to Medicaid (which would reduce access to health and dental coverage in every state), and denial of coverage for those with pre-existing conditions.

### Resources for Patient Information on Fluoride

While oral health professionals have long known the importance of fluoride in preventing tooth decay, many patients are either unaware or do not understand its benefit to their oral health.

The Campaign for Dental Health has developed informative patient guides and eye-catching posters that outline the links between good oral health and fluoride and community water fluoridation. These free tools, in both English and Spanish, are available [here](#).

The American Dental Association's [video](#) on fluoride and fluoridation outlines how fluoride, fluoridation, fluoride toothpaste and professional applications of fluoride can make tooth enamel more resistant to decay.

Additional sources of information on fluoride and fluoridation include [Fluoride Exposed](#), a non-profit group that uses science to debunk myths about fluoride, and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

The mission of the Maryland Dental Action Coalition is to develop and maintain a statewide partnership of individuals and organizations working together to improve the health of all Marylanders through increased oral health promotion, disease prevention, education, advocacy and access to oral health care.