



**Testimony:
Mary Beth Dobrzynski
Former and recent client
Health Care for the Homeless**

Before the

Maryland House of Delegates: House and Government Operations Committee

on

**SB 284: Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Coverage for Adults –
Pilot Program**

April 3, 2018
Room 240, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland

Good afternoon. My name is Mary Beth Dobrzynski, a resident of Baltimore City. I am writing to ask you to please support SB 284 and vote to create a dental Medicaid benefit for low-income Maryland adults like me.

While experiencing homelessness, I was a client of Health Care for the Homeless and the recipient of services from their dental clinic. The services included extraction of all my lower teeth, x-rays and the process that culminated in a full lower denture. I also had one crown. The services were provided at no cost to me.

I have been in my own apartment now for several years with my health care provided through Medicare and Medicaid, and I transitioned out of care at Health Care for the Homeless in 2016. Last month after an accidental fall, my lower denture cracked in half. I was fortunate to find a provider that could fix my dentures for a reduced rate of around \$140. Without dental insurance, I paid the entire amount, which is difficult because I am on disability with limited income of \$770 per month. This year I will be getting a lower denture with an implant to sustain my dental needs for the next 5 to 10 years. The cost to me will be more than \$3,330. A situation like cracking one's denture could easily be catastrophic without insurance or the good fortune of finding a company that would provide these needed denture services at a reduced rate.

The bill to include dental coverage in Medicaid will help others and myself on limited incomes. More importantly, it will help Health Care for the Homeless offset its dental costs, resulting in its ability to provide more homeless residents of Baltimore City much needed dental services.

It is said "Everyone Deserves a Home." Everyone Deserves a Smile, too.

Thank you.