



**Testimony:
Elizabeth Skates
Client
Health Care for the Homeless**

Before the

Maryland Senate: Committee on Finance

on

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

February 7, 2018
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing
Annapolis, Maryland

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee.

My name is Elizabeth Skates. I am a resident of Baltimore City and have been a client at Health Care for the Homeless for fourteen years. I am here to ask for your support of Senate Bill 284, to create a dental Medicaid benefit for adults in Maryland.

I have always understood good dental care to be an important part of overall health and wellness. I grew up with a mom who made sure that I had regular access to dental care as a child.

In my early 20s, I had to find clinics that would provide free dental services and started bouncing around from place to place such as the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and the Community College of Baltimore City. I appreciated any of the services I received, but had a difficult time accessing regular dental care.

When Health Care for the Homeless opened its own dental clinic, initially I had to get some work done such as fillings to take care of cavities due to not having regular access to dental care. However, since then, I have been pleased to have regular access to check ups and cleanings, and my dental health is in good shape.

I am thankful that I have regular access to dental care thanks to Health Care for the Homeless, and I hope that this law will make it so that all people have access to the dental care services they need.