



**Testimony:
Christopher Mehl
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,

My name is Christopher Mehl. I am not able to be here in person today because I am recovering from surgery. However, I am passionate about sharing my story and why access to dental care is so important.

I became homeless because of financial troubles following a divorce. For the past 18 months I've been enrolled in a program that is helping me get back on my feet, and through that I was connected to Health Care for the Homeless to help me with some of my dental needs.

I've had dental issues since my early 20s, but neglected these problems largely due to the cost of the services required. I felt so fortunate to get the work I needed completed with the help of the dental program at Health Care for the Homeless. I have recently completed driver school and now have a Commercial Drivers' License. I cannot even begin to describe how important this dental work has been to my self-confidence in knowing that I will land a job in the near future.

Dental care is extremely important for your physical health, but also for your financial health and employability. I look forward to getting back on track with my life and hope that others have the same access and opportunity to do the same.

Thank you for your time.