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Oral Health Education-Certification and Monitoring Legislation A Process of Due Diligence

National Governors Association conducts a case study highlighting how the law was passed in 2012.

Baltimore, Maryland (March 29, 2013). The outcome of Maryland's sound collaborative efforts achieved the 2012 *Oral Health Education-Certification and Monitoring* legislation. This due diligence by Maryland legislators, policy makers, oral health professionals, school educators, parents and other stakeholders offers a process others may be able to replicate. The pathway taken by organized dentistry shows promise and could help to influence the measures being contemplated by other states to have oral health incorporated into their public school curriculum.

The National Governors Association has conducted a case study highlighting how the law was passed in 2012. Entitled ***Maryland Passes Oral Health Education Legislation Through Collaborative Approach***, this case study may serve as a national guide. It evaluates the chronology of steps that afforded the *Oral Health Education-Certification and Monitoring* legislation success for schoolchildren in Maryland. The study can be downloaded from the National Governors Association website under State Health Policy Options at <http://statepolicyoptions.nga.org/casestudy/maryland-passes-oral-health-education-legislation-through-collaborative-approach>. This essay can be used to help other states by providing Maryland's examples of how they went through the process.

State leaders agree that this is an especially meaningful collaboration at a time when millions of children are poised to gain access to preventive services and comprehensive care via the Affordable Care Act. Maryland's *Pathway to Help Get Oral Health Education Legislation Passed in Your State* offers relevant scientific information that demonstrates the invaluable need to incorporate oral health education into classroom instruction as a way to prevent preventable disease.

Visit our websites to link to both the case study, *Maryland Passes Oral Health Education Legislation Through Collaborative Approach* and to Maryland's *Pathway to Help Get Oral Health Education Legislation Passed in Your State*. Go to Advocates for Children and Youth, www.acy.org, The Children's Oral Health Institute, www.mycohi.org, the Maryland Dental Society, www.themds.org, the Maryland State Dental Association, www.msda.com, the Maryland Academy of General Dentistry, www.maryland-agd.org, the Maryland Dental Action Coalition, www.mdac.us, the Maryland Dental Hygienists' Association, www.Mymdha.com, the National Dental Association, ndaonline.org and the Prince George's County Health Department, Department of Dentistry, www.princegeorgescountymd.gov.

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