

➤ **Support SB 925 (Senator Head) and HB 2085 (Delegate Shin)**

- SB 925 is a simple transparency and better business bill that does 2 important things:
  - The bill indicates that, if a health insurance carrier or their third-party is going to charge a processing or administrative fee to a healthcare provider, the carrier needs to disclose that fee in the contract.
  - If they do charge such a fee, health insurance carriers must offer a reimbursement option that does not carry a processing or administrative fee.
- Members of the Virginia Dental Association are joining small and large healthcare practices across the Commonwealth in asking for some transparency on these fees. A pediatric practice reported paying between \$3,000 and \$5,000 per month on these fees alone.
- The Virginia Dental Association supports this bill as proposed by the Medical Society of Virginia.

**Please vote YES on SB 925**

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➤ **Support Investment in Virginia Community College Dental Hygiene Programs**

- Delegate Amy Laufer has submitted a budget amendment to support the recruitment and retention of full-time and part-time faculty members at VCCS Dental Hygiene programs.
- The Virginia Dental Workforce Council and a separate study funded by Delta Dental of Virginia have found faculty pay to be a chief impediment to sustaining and expanding VCCS dental hygiene programs.
- Virginia is currently experiencing an acute dental workforce crisis, as Virginia Peninsula Community College has paused admissions to its dental hygiene program and other programs are at risk.
- These are highly competitive programs for admissions, and their graduates are aggressively recruited by dental offices.
- In addition to providing essential preventative healthcare, dental hygienists have the highest median income of graduates of any in-demand two-year VCCS healthcare program
- The Virginia Dental Association supports increased funding to allow more students to access these critical education programs.

## ➤ Oppose Removing the Medical Malpractice Cap: SB 904 (Stanley)

Senator Stanley's SB 904 seeks to provide an exemption from the medical malpractice cap for any actions against a healthcare provider treating a patient aged 10 or younger.

### **The Problem with the Legislation:**

Removing or modifying the medical malpractice cap in any way could significantly increase the cost of providing and receiving healthcare in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

- Medical malpractice insurance costs would increase for all providers, including state hospitals, which would not only cost more General Fund dollars but would also increase the cost of health care for patients.
- Before Virginia's medical malpractice schedule was enacted in 2012, the costs of medical malpractice insurance premiums were exorbitant and were so high that some providers could not afford it.
- Increased costs could impact practitioners' considerations to treat patients aged 10 and under.

### **The Solution: Maintain the Current Med Mal Cap**

In 2010 and 2011, Virginia's healthcare providers worked with the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association to reach a consensus on updates to the cap, and the General Assembly ultimately passed legislation for an increase of \$50,000 per year until 2032. This model was created to create stability and certainty for all stakeholders. The Virginia Trial Lawyers Association supports Virginia's current med mal laws and did NOT request this legislation.

**Please vote NO on SB 904**

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## ➤ Support Critical Federal Medicaid Dental Supplemental Payments at NO GF Cost to the VA State Budget

Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Dentistry (VCU SOD) is the largest provider of dental care to Medicaid patients in the state and carries significant uncompensated costs.

VCU SOD is eligible for additional federal Medicaid supplemental payments that would NOT require state general fund dollars after VCU provides the required non-federal match.

These Medicaid supplemental payments for VCU dentists would provide an estimated net \$1.67 million in additional federal funding annually.

### **About VCU SOD:**

- Medicaid recipients represent almost **two-thirds** of the SOD's over 65K visits and almost 180K procedures performed in FY24.
- The number of Medicaid-covered visits has increased by almost **37%** in just two years, exceeding the growth of any other payer group at the SOD.
- Following the expansion of adult Medicaid dental benefits in Virginia, the SOD has found it challenging to accommodate the large and growing demand for oral health care services.
- While a new dental school facility will significantly increase clinical capacity to adequately meet the demand for space, other costs such as faculty, supplies and equipment are not met by Medicaid base rates and need to be covered by sustainable funding.

### **About Federal Medicaid Supplemental Payments:**

- The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) allows state Medicaid programs to apply for supplemental payments which are paid in addition to the normal claims' payments received by a provider from Medicaid.
- Dentists affiliated with public universities like VCU are also eligible for these supplemental payments. Medicaid dental services are all fee-for-service (not managed care).
- **VCU is proposing to provide the entire non-federal match (estimated at \$945K)** through an intergovernmental transfer (IGT) paid directly by VCU. It is estimated the federal portion will be an estimated \$1.67M for a total payment of approximately \$2.6 million.

**We respectfully ask the General Assembly to approve these supplemental payments and direct the Department of Medical Assistance Services to file a state plan amendment (SPA).**