



December 13, 2011

Ms. Renee Spence
Legislative Liaison
Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Ms. Spence:

Season greetings! It was a pleasure speaking with you on Wednesday, November 30, 2011. It has been three years since we were acquainted in that important October 1, 2008 meeting. We appreciate Senator Delores Kelley reconnecting us.

Since that time, we have been diligently compiling material to help teachers to “incorporate” oral health education into their routine lesson plans. The result is the *Code Red: The Oral Health Crisis In Your Classroom*® - *Empowering the Teacher to Teach Oral Health Education in the Classroom – A Curriculum Resource Reference* booklet. We have as well been collaborating with the educators, legislators, organized dentistry, physician groups and others to advance this effort. A timeline snapshot is attached to give you a look at our commitment to begin better educating Marylanders about the importance of oral health.

Code Red: The Oral Health Crisis In Your Classroom® is the tool that has been developed to support classroom teachers. This booklet makes it easier for the teachers by having oral health education resources available to “incorporate” into their lesson plans. We hope the apple-shaped design of the booklet also affords us some endearing points that will inspire as well as remind teachers to teach oral health. A copy is enclosed for your consideration.

We are eager to accomplish this direly needed incorporation of oral health education into the curriculum for the state of Maryland. We look forward to meeting with you on Friday, December 16, 2011 to explore legislation to have oral health education considered for incorporation into the K through 12 school curricula in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Winifred J. Booker, DDS
CEO & Director of Development

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Senator Delores Kelley- District 10, Baltimore County, Maryland
Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, Maryland Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Dr. Harry Goodman - State Dental Director, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Dr. Willie Richardson - President, Maryland Dental Society
Dr. Diane Romaine - President, Maryland State Dental Association
Dr. David A. Williams - President, Maryland Academy of General Dentistry
Dr. Brian Griffith - Specialist, Comprehensive Health Education-Maryland State Department of Education

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