

SB 021 OPPOSED SB 538 SUPPORT DENTAL COMPACTS

Submitted by Dr Thomas R. a'Becket Legislative Chair Maryland State Dental Association and Past President of the Maryland State Dental Association

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of SB 538 Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Compact (American Association of Dental Boards) and in OPPOSITION to SB 021 Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact (CSG).

I will highlight and contrast the major differences, showing the superior aspects of SB 538.

LICENSURE SB 538 requires an expedited license so that every dentist has the same license and is subject to the rules and regulations of the Maryland State Board of Dentistry, so the Board has direct authority over the licensee. SB 021 provides a privilege from the Compact Commission that has direct control of the licensee, creating a two-tier system.

TESTING SB 538 requires hands skill testing by an independent third party showing Clinical Competency vs SB 021 that only utilizes written/computer Clinical Assessment. Dentists by the scope of practice spend the majority of their time performing surgery on either hard tissue or soft tissue so demonstrating hands skills is important.

FISCAL SB 538 Minimal as the infrastructure exists within the American Association of Dental Boards as a collaborative of 51 Licensing Boards and each applicant applying through the compact would be responsible for the costs. SB 021 will require each member state to contribute to the start up costs and maintain the Compact Commission. In my research, the State of Maine, with 530 dentists had the fiscal note of approximately \$250,000 for each of the first 3 years. In Colorado, with 5400 dentists, the is projected at \$ 900,000 per year. Colorado will be surcharging each dentist and dental hygienist to cover the cost, not just the applicants.

SB 538 is modeled on the Interstate Medical Compact (Physicians) which Maryland has adopted and is working as projected.

Thank you for your consideration of these competing bills, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 538 and an UNFAVORABLE REPORT on SB 021.