



COALITION FOR MODERNIZING DENTAL LICENSURE

January 28, 2025

Chair Pam Beidle
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB0021 – DDH Compact Support

Dear Chair Beidle,

On behalf of the Coalition for Modernizing Dental Licensure (CMDL), I am writing to express our strong support for the Dentist and Dental Hygienist (DDH) Compact, an initiative developed to modernize dental licensure and increase portability for dentists and dental hygienists.

The Coalition for Modernizing Dental Licensure, representing over 130 national and state organizations, institutions, and programs in dentistry, dental education, dental specialties, dental hygiene, and nonprofit sectors, fully endorses this compact as a critical step forward. The compact was developed by the Council of State Governments with support from the Department of Defense, the American Dental Association, and the American Dental Hygienists' Association. Its creation involved extensive collaboration with stakeholders, including state board members, board administrators, professional organizations, and licensed dentists and dental hygienists, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive process.

Like other successful healthcare compacts, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact will enable dentists and dental hygienists holding a license in good standing to practice in other member states without the burden of applying for individual state licenses. This reduces the financial and administrative barriers currently faced by professionals while ensuring that states maintain authority over licensure and regulatory oversight. Compact participants must adhere to the laws, regulations, and scope of practice of the states in which they work, thus preserving and strengthening the existing system of dental licensure.

The compact provides a much-needed solution to the challenges posed by geographic limitations, workforce shortages, and the growing demand for accessible oral health care. By fostering mobility, the compact will help ensure that underserved areas can more readily benefit from the expertise of licensed professionals.

Thank you for considering advancing policies that support the dental profession, licensure mobility, and patient care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'JoAnn Gurenlian'.

JoAnn Gurenlian, RDH, MS, PhD, AAFAAOM, FADHA
Chair, Coalition for Modernizing Dental Licensure