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Committee: Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number: Senate Bill 21 – Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact
Hearing Date: February 11, 2025
Position: Support

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition supports *Senate Bill 21 – Dentist and Dental Hygiene Compact*. With this legislation, Maryland would be eligible to participate in the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact to support licensure portability for qualified applicants. The Compact was developed by the Council of State Governments through a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense.

Maryland has a shortage of dental providers in nearly every jurisdiction, according to the Health Services and Resources Administration, including: Anne Arundel, Allegany, Baltimore (Co), Baltimore (City), Caroline, Cecil, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.

Licensure compacts are important to providing flexibility so that qualified practitioners from other states can practice in Maryland. Compacts are also important to attract providers to relocate to Maryland, as they know they will have flexibility in practicing over state lines in other Compact states.

Maryland has adopted similar compact models for other professions including registered nurses, occupational therapy practitioners, physical therapists, and registered nurses. Compacts can exist side-by-side with other efforts to streamline licensure processes for applying for licensure in Maryland.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders