

February 7, 2025

To: Senator Beidle, Chair and Senator Hayes, Vice Chair
Finance Committee distinguished members

RE: I support - SB0538 protects citizens and enables licensure portability

RE: I oppose - SB0021 This compact language is vague, undefined terms dilute
educational standards & licensing credentials, presenting a risk to public safety.

Dear Honorable Senator Beidle,

I am Betty Howard a registered licensed dental hygienist practicing in Montgomery County for 42 years. I served on Maryland's Board of Dental examiners and was honored to be the first Dental Hygienist to be President of Dental Board. My experience as a dental hygiene examiner for 30 years, has given me great insight. I have often witnessed why the American Dental Exam (ADEX) should be used to validate clinical competency.

I support SB0538 because:

- States can join the AADB IDHHL Compact at no cost, promoting workforce mobility without burdening taxpayers.
- By requiring hand-skills examinations and accredited education, the AADB Compact maintains high standards designed to protect public safety.
- With clear, uniform standards, the AADB Compact enhances regulatory consistency across member states while respecting Maryland laws.

American Association of Dental Board's (AADB) compact language is precise, applicant's qualifying credentials require passing the ADEX exam and completing standardized educational curriculums. Not validating hand skills is irresponsible. Our profession demands accuracy in a very confined space. As Chief at ADEX dental hygiene exams, I have seen practitioners unable to demonstrate clinical competency.

AADB, established in 1898, has required hand skills examinations to validate competency and protect the public for over a century.

I am opposed to Dental and Dental Hygiene (DDH) Compact bill, SB0021, because of undefined terms like "clinical assessment" this will open pandora's box. Will a hand skills component be required? A 3rd party, objective psychometrically sound hand skills examination is designed to validate competency. The DDH Compact would allow individuals with minimal to no validation of competency, to practice with a 'privilege', **NOT A LICENSE** in Maryland. This threatens public protection and compromises Maryland's dental hygiene standards of care. Maryland's Dental Board regulates and disciplines licensees, not privileged practitioners.

I am asking Senators of the Finance Committee to preserve Maryland's high standards and vote to protect the public in the future by supporting SB0538.

Very truly yours,

Betty Howard, RDH
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District 15