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The mission of ADEA is to lead and support the health professions community in preparing future-ready oral health professionals.

655 K Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202.289.7201
Fax: 202.289.7204
adea.org

January 29, 2025

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

Chair Beidle and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), I write to express our support for Senate Bill 21, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.

Much like the existing licensure compacts for nurses, physical therapists, physicians, psychologists and EMS personnel, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact will increase licensure portability for oral health practitioners while allowing member state regulatory boards to better protect consumers through enhanced sharing of licensure information. Existing interstate occupational licensure compacts have been successful in reducing barriers for practitioners who wish to provide services in other states.

This compact, like the many others to which Maryland is a party, was developed in conjunction with the Council of State Governments, and with other key stakeholders including the Department of Defense (DoD), American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA), the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), and many others. Representatives from nine different state boards of dentistry were included at every stage of the drafting and review process. This is a compact that the oral health community can, and does, stand proudly behind.

We recognize that the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact will benefit consumers, licensure boards and the dentistry profession by:

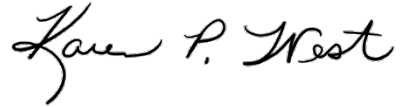
- Enhancing mobility for practitioners who meet uniform licensure requirements,
- Increasing access to care for patients,
- Ensuring continuity of care when patients or practitioners relocate or travel to other states,
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their licenses when relocating,
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure,
- Reducing burdens associated with the recruitment of dental and dental hygiene faculty when it is necessary to have a license to teach in school clinics,
- Minimizing financial costs for dentists and dental hygienists and
- Allowing for the acceptance of more than one pathway to licensure that relies on methods of measuring clinical skills that protect public safety.

Importantly, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact preserves each member state's authority to regulate the dental health profession. Oral health

practitioners using the compact must abide by the laws and rules of the state in which they are practicing and adhere to that state's scope of practice.

With these benefits in mind, ADEA supports the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen P. West". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'K'.

Karen P. West, D.M.D., M.P.H.
President and CEO