

Written Testimony for 2/11/25

To: The Senate Finance Committee
Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair
3 East Miller State Office Building
Annapolis, Md. 21401

RE: SB 538 Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact

Dear Madame Chair and Finance Committee:

I am Dr. Shari Kohn, a board-certified Pediatric Dentist in Maryland. I am representing the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners in SUPPORT of SB 538 – the Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact referred to subsequently as IDDLIC.

This compact closely follows similar compacts that currently exist in medicine.

This compact is the **safest** of the two compacts being presented today and will allow better protection the citizens of Maryland.

It requires graduation from a CODA (Commission on Dental Accreditation) approved Program. This compact also requires a “hands on” clinical examination – something everyone would want their dentist or dental hygienist to have completed.

This compact allows the applicant to obtain a license from the state of Maryland and as such allows the state dental board to require satisfaction of the states continuing education requirement.

This compact also allows the state board to have disciplinary actions for the licensed dentist or dental hygienist as they will be considered to be within their jurisdiction. This compact is divided into both dental and dental hygiene boards which allows two (2) commissioners per jurisdiction.

It specifies that Military personnel and their family members will be exempt from fees while on active duty and ONE (1) year following the completion of their service.

A Compact licensee will renew their status with the IDDLIC and maintain a license in their home state as well as Maryland.

As with both compacts fees are required to join. This compact has much more detail about fees as compared to the other compact. Thus leaving no open checkbook for the state, the dental board OR the licensed dentist or dental hygienist.

Lastly, as a Pediatric Dentist, we are responsible for the well-being and safe care of the children of our state. Pediatric Dentists employ the use of Nitrous Oxide, sedation, general anesthesia and other behavior management techniques. I am aware that many other states take these treatment alternatives less seriously than we do in Maryland. I would be fearful of someone from another state, who does not possess the proper training working on my child or yours.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote in FAVOR of SB 538 – the Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Compact.

Respectfully,

Dr. Shari C. Kohn

Member – Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners

Fellow - American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

Diplomat - American Board of Pediatric Dentistry

Fellow - American College of Pediatric Dentistry

Fellow – International College of Pediatric Dentistry

Clinical Instructor – University of Maryland School of Dentistry