



*Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary*

**Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners**

Spring Grove Hospital Center - Benjamin Rush Bldg.  
55 Wade Ave/Tulip Drive  
Catonsville, MD 21228

February 11, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: Senate Bill 538 – Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact - Support

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners respectfully submits this support for SB 538 - Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact. The bill adopts the American Association of Dental Boards ("AADB") compact. The compact requires the Dental Board to issue a "compact license privilege" to dentists and dental hygienists who are either licensed in or have a compact license privilege in other states if they meet certain academic and hand motor skills.

The Board firmly believes that the requirements of the AADB Compact and this bill will help ensure that dentists and dental hygienists in Maryland have the requisite skills to adequately treat our states' citizens.

Under the Compact to receive a compact license privilege a dentist and a dental hygienist must have successfully graduated from an American Dental Association Commission of Dental Accreditation approved school ("CODA"). To receive accreditation the school undergoes an extensive assessment of its program effectiveness, clinical facilities, faculty qualifications, research capability, student assessment, and systems for ongoing evaluation and improvement, to ensure that graduates are prepared to practice dentistry at a high level of competence. CODA schools are subject to site visits and undergo periodic reevaluations.

In addition, dentists and dental hygienists must pass the American Dental Licensing Examination (ADLEX) or the American Dental Hygiene Licensing Examination (ADHLEX) administered by the American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc. The ADEX examinations extensively test psychomotor skills and didactic performance and are considered to be the most highly regarded examinations in the nation. The ADEX examinations are available for licensure in 48 states and in other jurisdictions, including Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Most dentists have taken the ADEX examination.

Under the Compact if an individual has not passed the ADEX examinations, they must have graduated from a CODA accredited school, passed a regional Board examination, and have 5 years' experience as a dentist or dental hygienist. The educational and examination requirements under current Maryland law are substantially similar.

The Board notes that HB 45 and SB 21 titled Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact, are other compact bills which were previously introduced and which the Board opposes. Under HB 45 and SB 21 Maryland must accept the National Board Examinations of the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (which it presently does) "or another examination accepted by Commission Rule as a licensure examination." In addition, the bill provides that applicants need to "successfully complete a Clinical Assessment." Unfortunately, by providing that a dentist or dental hygienist may pass "another examination accepted by Commission Rule" and by providing that a dentist or dental hygienist need only "successfully complete a Clinical Assessment" the door is left open for the Commission to accept any examination and any clinical assessment, no matter how lacking in its ability to adequately measure clinical competency. Although a candidate may be competent in academics and critical thinking, examining hand motor skills is essential to determine if a candidate may properly treat a patient within the confines of the oral cavity. Licensure standards should not be placed in the hands of a compact Commission with plenary power to devise whatever licensing standards they wished, fueled by expediency or political motivation.

For the foregoing reasons, the Board requests that SB 538 receive a favorable report.

I hope that this information is helpful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at 202-997-2606 or [chiyo.alie@maryland.gov](mailto:chiyo.alie@maryland.gov).

The opinion of the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners expressed in this support position paper does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the administration.

Sincerely,  
*Chiyo Alie, D.D.S.*  
Chiyo Alie, D.D.S.  
Board President