

February 7, 2025

Re: **Oppose SB21** - Dentist and Dental Hygienist (DDH) Compact

Dear Esteemed Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Hayes, and Distinguished Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a concerned Registered Dental Hygienist, Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners Member, and constituent, I am writing to you regarding an issue of public safety in our state. SB21, also known as the Dentist and Dental Hygienist (DDH) Compact, is a threat to public safety. SB21 raises major concerns and lessens the current standards that have existed in dentistry in Maryland for decades.

I **oppose SB21** because it would threaten public safety by:

- Potentially allowing untested dental professionals to practice in Maryland.
- Lowering licensure standards by allowing dental professionals to practice across state lines without completing hand-skills examinations.
- Allowing unvetted practitioners to become licensed and move around more freely.
- Failing to mandate full reporting of disciplinary issues and all criminal history, limiting Maryland's ability to protect patients effectively.

I also **oppose SB21** because it would:

- Undermine state authority by giving an unelected commission quasi-legislative powers in Maryland.
- Potentially allow the selection of non dental professionals as Compact Commissioners, which would be detrimental as decisions regarding licensure, regulation and professional standards could be made by these individuals without proper knowledge or expertise in the field of dentistry.
- Create an unelected taxing authority with the power to levy annual assessments on participating states, resulting in unpredictable fiscal impacts.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to preserve our current standards for the profession of dentistry and **oppose SB21**.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Zeder, RDH