



DATE: February 11, 2025

TO: The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair, Finance Committee

FROM: Art Jee, President, American Association of Dental Boards (AADB)

RE: SUPPORT--Senate Bill 538—Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact  
OPPOSE—Senate Bill 21—Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact

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On behalf of the American Association of Dental Boards (AADB), I am Art Jee, President of AADB. I have also served as past-president of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), past-president of the Maryland State Dental Board, am a current member on the Council of Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL), and I just retired as a Board certified Oral Maxillofacial Surgeon practicing in Maryland 38 years. I support Senate Bill 538 and oppose Senate Bill 21.

The core difference in the two compacts is licensure, which is required in the AADB Compact (SB 538) but not in the Council of State Government's compact (SB 21), which provides a compact "privilege" to practice in any state belonging to that compact. The AADB Compact faithfully copies the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact that Maryland entered six years ago and provides expedited license and sole source verification. The goal may be the same—to allow dentists and dental hygienists to move with greater ease among states, but the AADB Compact preserves your ability as a Legislature to regulate the profession in the manner you see fit. The CSG compact does not.

Maryland law specifically states that our dental board has jurisdiction over licensees. The CSG Compact provides a "privilege" and not a license issued by our State Dental Board. Legally and statutorily, a 'privilege' is not a license. There is NO wording of "license" anywhere in the CSG Compact. Without a license, a privilege holder is not required to obey Maryland requirements for licensure, which include a hands-skill examination (ADEX) to validate competency, continuing education requirements, providing a location of practice, and providing proper identification (like license number) in case of patient complaint. These requirements do not apply to a privilege holder. This begs the question, how can a "privilege holder" oversee dental hygienists, have anesthesia permits, apply for Medicaid - all of which require a license according to Maryland statutes?

In short, SB 21 inserts an independent third-party between the Maryland Legislature, the State Dental Board, and patients in our State. Conversely, Senate Bill 538 retains the State existing powers over all dentists and dental hygienists in the State, and best protects dental patients.

Thank you for your attention to these very important bills. We ask for your support for SB 538 and your opposition to SB 21.