

Heather Bagnall, Member
House Commission of Public Health
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

INFORMATIONAL LETTER
House BILL 45 – DENTIST AND DENTAL HYGIENIST COMPACT

Dear Co-Chairs Brewster, Lushniak and Olateju and Members of the House Commission of Public Health:

The Maryland Dental Hygienists Association (MDHA) is the professional association for dental hygienists providing services in Maryland. As an organization, MDHA seeks to improve the public's total health by advancing the art and science of dental hygiene, including ensuring access to quality oral health care, increasing awareness of the cost-effective benefits of preventative dental services, promoting the highest standards of dental hygiene education, licensure, practice and research, and representing and promoting the interests of dental hygienists in Maryland.

In keeping with those goals, MDHA takes this opportunity to provide informational testimony on House Bill 45, which would enter Maryland into the Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact and authorize a dentist or dental hygienist to practice in a member state and, conversely, authorize eligible licensees from other members states to practice in Maryland. While MDHA is supportive of the development and participation by the State of Maryland in a licensure compact for dental service practitioners, it seeks to ensure that the compact requires appropriate levels of education and training, testing, and regulation to ensure that preventative and restorative dental services are delivered in a safe and effective manner that protects patients and Maryland's licensees.

As a member who has reviewed the Dental Dental Hygiene compact, I am in full support of entering this compact. This compact agreement was an effort of collaboration with both the American Dental Association and the American Dental Hygienists' Association after years of member input and participation. I believe that this compact will ensure that Maryland will be able to license providers who move into our state in a timely and effective manner.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to submit these comments and participate in any subsequent legislative work on this important and impactful matter. If you had any further questions about the compact, please visit the FAQ page at: <https://ddhcompact.org/faq/>

Sincerely,

Jody Berinato, RDH, BS, FADHA
Past MDHA President 2017-2018