



February 11, 2025

The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair
The Honorable Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
Maryland House Health & Government Operations Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB534 – Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Compact – **Favorable**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland Academy of Pediatric Dentistry is the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry – a nonprofit organization dedicated to the specialty of children’s oral health.

Pediatric dentists complete four years of dental school and a two to three-year residency focused on treating children. This specialized training is important because children’s teeth and their behavior are different than adults. Additionally, pediatric dentists are trained to work with children who have behavioral differences and medical challenges. Many of these children can only be safely treated in a hospital operating room. Pediatric dentists are committed to ensuring that Maryland’s children have equitable access to dental care. Seventy percent of Maryland’s pediatric dentists participate in the Maryland Medical Assistance Children’s Program.

We support this legislation because it creates a comprehensive multi-state system that allows for dental professionals to move across state lines, while ensuring that Maryland can adequately supervise and oversee the dental professionals practicing in Maryland.

This bill ensures the competence of dental professionals seeking to practice in Maryland to graduate from a CODA (Commission on Dental Accreditation) approved program and pass a clinical examination with a hand skills component. Under this legislation, the State Board would issue a Compact License, which gives the State Board the authority to take disciplinary action against a dental professional as compared to a Compact Privilege. It is unclear whether the State Board could take disciplinary action against a holder of a “Compact Privilege” because that dental professional would not hold a license in this State. In addition, State Boards are required to share all disciplinary actions to the Clearinghouse, which will help keep Maryland informed of disciplinary actions taken outside of the State for a dental professional practicing within the state. For these and other reasons, we urge the Committee to move **FAVORABLE** on SB538.

Questions and requests for additional information should be directed to Camille Fesche cfesche@rwillaw.com and Bill Castelli wcastelli@rwillaw.com via email or phone at 410-269-5066.