

HB0045 OPPOSITION

Good afternoon, Madame Chair and distinguished members of the committee. I am Betty Howard a licensed dental hygienist practicing in Montgomery County for 42 years. I served on Maryland's Board of Dental examiners and was honored to be the first Dental Hygienist to be elected President of Dental Board. My experience as a dental hygiene examiner for 30 years, has given me great **insight**. I have often witnessed why the ADEX exam **should be used** to validate clinical competency!

I oppose – HB0045 The vague, undefined terms presents a public safety risk. A “clinical assessment” is not a 3rd party independent **hand** skills examination which is the standard to validate **clinical competency**.

DDH language: CODA accredited or programs approved by the US DEPT OF ED. This changes the dynamics of education by expanding accrediting bodies, losing control over standardization and what curriculums will include.

DDH Compact, threatens public safety potentially lowering Licensing Standards

- By NOT requiring hand-skills examinations to validate clinical competency
- Educational Standards can be diluted without standardization
- Authorizing the US DEPT. OF EDUCATION to accredit programs which could be mentored preceptorship program?? Already a licensing practice in Alabama.

This will open Pandora's Box!!

HB0045 raises major concerns regarding standards that have existed **in Maryland** for decades diminishing current safeguards in place to protect the public.

I ask you **please** take a stand to preserve Maryland's current standards for the profession of dentistry and return an unfavorable report OPPOSING HB0045.

Thank you for your time and attention today!

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