



## Maryland Community Health System

**Bill Number:** House Bill 45 – Dentist and Dental Hygiene Compact

**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Hearing Date:** February 18, 2025

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *House Bill 45 – Dentist and Dental Hygiene Compact*. The bill proposes model language to allow Maryland to enter into the Dentist and Dental Hygiene Compact.

As a network of federally qualified health centers, we provide somatic, behavioral, and dental services to underserved communities across Maryland. Our health centers are facing severe shortage of dental providers, creating challenges in ensuring all people, regardless of income or insurance status, have access to dental care. Licensure compacts are an important part of the strategy to alleviate health professional shortages. Maryland has already joined similar compacts for nurses, professional counselors, psychologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists.

We ask for a favorable report. Twenty-two jurisdictions in Maryland have a dental provider shortage, according to the Health Resources and Services Administration. We need to adopt measures to attract qualified dental providers to Maryland. If we can provide additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).