



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: SB45 – Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact – Unfavorable

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. As part of this commitment, seventy percent of Maryland’s pediatric dentists participate in the Maryland Medical Assistance Children’s Program.

While we appreciate the intent of this bill, it fails to ensure that dental professionals practicing in Maryland are held to Maryland’s high standards. Instead, we urge the committee to seriously consider SB538. Most importantly, this proposed compact does not require a dentist to have the same credentials that a Maryland licensed dentist is required to have. In addition, an out-of-state dental professional would be granted a privilege to practice, not a license. The distinction is important because there is uncertainty as to whether the State Board could take disciplinary action against the dental professional who holds a privilege to practice in this State. Further, the States would be limited in whether they can share disciplinary action proceedings. For professionals who work with children, it is of the utmost importance that we ensure they are held to high standards and the State is able to enforce disciplinary proceedings. For these and other reasons, we urge the Committee to vote **Unfavorable** on SB21.

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