

February 18, 2025

TO: Honorable Pena-Melnyk - Chair HGO Committee

RE: Support HB0534 - AADB Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact
is the best choice for Maryland to protect our citizens.

RE: Oppose HB0045 - DDH Dental and Dental Hygiene Compact – By not requiring 3rd
party clinical hands skills examination, licensure standards will be
diminish.

Dear Madame Chair, Vice Chair Cullison, and distinguished members of the HGO Comm.

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 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 would like to share my experience as Chief of an ADEX clinical DH exam in December. I was not grading the individuals taking this exam. I was on the clinic to proctor their examination. As Chief I do have access to the results of the examination.

- 7 newly trained graduates from this school's program, passed demonstrating their clinical expertise and competency.
- 4 others taking this clinical dental hygiene exam were not from this class of graduates.

One formerly licensed & dental hygienist, was reentering the profession after letting her prior license laps. She had never scaled teeth on a model before. She removed all deposit & did not CUT the simulated gum tissue. She easily demonstrated her competency.

3-remaining candidates struggled, leaving significant deposits on the teeth. One model had multiple cuts on the simulated gum tissue which would have caused a patient significant pain. None of the 3 passed their examination. Their efforts did not demonstrate their readiness to be licensed to practice dental hygiene. This was a **25% failure rate** at this one exam.

Let's continue Maryland's high standards to license competent, well trained practitioners to safely treat Maryland's citizens.

I urge you to support **HB0534** with a **Favorable** report to safeguard and protect MD citizens.

Thank you for your attention and your precious time.

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