

February 18, 2025

TO: Honorable Delegate Pena-Melnyk, Chair & Vice Chair Cullison HGO Committee

RE: Support for HB0538 - NO FISCAL IMPACT: AADB Compact offers the best protection of public health with the least burden on Maryland taxpayers.

RE: Opposition to HB0045 The DDH Commission will assess unlimited fees on member state governments without legislative oversight to fully fund their Commission.

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

AADB Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact has no fiscal impact on states that will participate.

- Applicants will pay AADB \$350 they will retain original source documentation.
An existing clearinghouse can be expanded to maintain these documents.
- State Dental Boards are allowed 50 queries to AADB per year at no cost.
AADB Compact eligibility status will enable states to issue a state license.
- Applicants will pay an administrative fee to the state for issuing an actual license.

As members of the Finance Committee, you may be interested in the Fiscal Note Maine researched last spring.

DDH Compact will assess participating states to fully funding their Commission.

- Maine's Fiscal note, to support the DDH Commission, is estimated to cost \$215,000 initially with an annual participation fee.
- Costs of funding the DDH Commission, are allowed to be passed onto states existing licensees! Colorado will assess dental licensees and extra \$100 and dental hygiene licensees \$30, raising close to \$1,000,000 to cover the cost of the funding the DDH Commission.
- The DDH Commission is allowed to assess potentially unlimited fees on member state governments without legislative oversight!

Written into the language of the DDH legislation stating the Compact is **immutable! This document carries the force of law.**

Section 13: Consistent Effect and Conflict with Other State Laws Participating states retain sovereignty over all laws, and nothing shall inhibit or prohibit enforcement of laws that are not in conflict with the compact. **Any laws, statutes, regulations or other legal requirements in a member state that conflict with the compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.**

Please vote for the BEST Compact for Maryland and support SB0538. Thank you for your time!

Betty Howard, BSDH, RDH, 11607 Regency Drive Potomac, MD 20854 District 15