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The mission of ADEA is to lead  
and support the health professions  
community in preparing future-ready  
oral health professionals.

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January 29, 2025

Chair Joseline Pena-Melnyk  
House Health and Government Operations Committee  
241 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Pena-Melnyk and members of the House Health and Government  
Operations Committee:

On behalf of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), I write to  
express our support for House Bill 45, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist  
Compact.

Much like the existing licensure compacts for nurses, physical therapists,  
physicians, psychologists and EMS personnel, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist  
Compact will increase licensure portability for oral health practitioners while  
allowing member state regulatory boards to better protect consumers through  
enhanced sharing of licensure information. Existing interstate occupational  
licensure compacts have been successful in reducing barriers for practitioners  
who wish to provide services in other states.

This compact, like the many others to which Maryland is a party, was  
developed in conjunction with the Council of State Governments, and with  
other key stakeholders including the Department of Defense (DoD), American  
Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA), the American Dental Education  
Association (ADEA), and many others. Representatives from nine different  
state boards of dentistry were included at every stage of the drafting and  
review process. This is a compact that the oral health community can, and  
does, stand proudly behind.

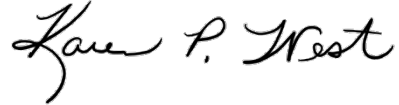
We recognize that the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact will benefit  
consumers, licensure boards and the dentistry profession by:

- Enhancing mobility for practitioners who meet uniform licensure requirements,
- Increasing access to care for patients,
- Ensuring continuity of care when patients or practitioners relocate or travel to other states,
- Allowing military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their licenses when relocating,
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure,
- Reducing burdens associated with the recruitment of dental and dental hygiene faculty when it is necessary to have a license to teach in school clinics,
- Minimizing financial costs for dentists and dental hygienists and
- Allowing for the acceptance of more than one pathway to licensure that relies on methods of measuring clinical skills that protect public safety.

Importantly, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact preserves each member state's authority to regulate the dental health profession. Oral health practitioners using the compact must abide by the laws and rules of the state in which they are practicing and adhere to that state's scope of practice.

With these benefits in mind, ADEA supports the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen P. West". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K' and 'W'.

Karen P. West, D.M.D., M.P.H.  
President and CEO