



Maryland
DENTAL HYGIENISTS'
ASSOCIATION

February 18, 2025

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 240
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

HOUSE BILL 45 – DENTIST AND DENTAL HYGIENIST COMPACT

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Dental Hygienists Association (MDHA) is the professional association for dental hygienists providing services in Maryland. As an organization, MDHA seeks to improve the public's total health by advancing the art and science of dental hygiene, including ensuring access to quality oral health care, increasing awareness of the cost-effective benefits of preventative dental services, promoting the highest standards of dental hygiene education, licensure, practice and research, and representing and promoting the interests of dental hygienists in Maryland.

In keeping with those goals, MDHA takes this opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 45 to join Maryland to the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact to increase license portability to practitioners while allowing member state licensing boards to protect consumers through enhanced licensure information sharing.

The Compact provides the following benefits:

- 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; and
- Preserving and strengthening the current system of state licensure.

MDHA thanks the sponsor and the Committee for the opportunity to submit these comments of support and participate in any subsequent legislative work on this important and impactful matter. MDHA urges a favorable report on HB45.