



COALITION FOR MODERNIZING DENTAL LICENSURE

February 14, 2025

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

Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB 534

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk,

The Coalition for Modernizing Dental Licensure represents over 130 national and state organizations, institutions, and programs representing dentistry, dental education, dental specialties, dental hygiene, and nonprofit groups working to ensure patient safety, increase access to care, and promote professional mobility.

While the Coalition strongly endorses the concept of compacts, we are writing today in opposition to HB 534.

In support of its founding principles, the Coalition has championed work at the national level to establish a common core of credentials for licensure in the form of the [Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact \(DDH Compact\)](#). Unlike the legislation in HB 534, the DDH Compact was developed in a transparent and inclusive process with the Council of State Governments and with the support of the Department of Defense. Stakeholders in the profession including state dental board members, board administrators, licensed dentists and dental hygienists, and members of professional organizations, collaborated on the DDH Compact legislation that was released in January 2023. The DDH Compact has been passed in ten states and fifteen additional states have pending legislation.

The legislation in HB 534 was developed and introduced by the American Association of Dental Boards after the organization declined to participate in the development of the DDH Compact. The legislation does not reflect best practices in compact drafting, lacks inherent public accountability and safeguards, and should be rejected as model legislation.

While we applaud the consideration given to increasing licensure mobility through compacts, we request that the committee not move forward with HB 534.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Gurenlian, RDH, MS, PhD, AAFAAOM, FADHA
Chair, Coalition for Modernizing Dental Licensure