

February 14, 2025

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

Dear Ms. Pena-Melnyk:

On behalf of the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA), I write to express our support for the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.

Founded in 1923, ADHA is the largest national organization representing the professional interests of the more than 200,000 registered dental hygienists across the country. ADHA strongly believes dental hygienists should be valued and integrated into the broader health care delivery system to improve the public's oral and overall health. Indeed, oral health is a part of total health. ADHA's advocacy efforts include promoting the oral health of the public, promoting access to oral health care services, and promoting the advancement of the dental hygiene profession.

Much like the existing licensure compacts for physical therapists, physicians, psychologists and EMS personnel, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact will increase licensure portability for 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.

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

Importantly, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact preserves each member state's authority to regulate the profession. Practitioners utilizing 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.

ADHA fully supports the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.

Sincerely,



Erin Haley-Hitz, RDH, BSDH, MS, FADHA, MAADH, President

cc: Lancette VanGuilder, Lancette VanGuilder, BS, RDH, PHEDH, CEAS, FADHA, President-Elect  
Jennifer Hill, Interim ADHA Chief Executive Officer  
JoAnn Gurenlian, RDH, MS, PhD, AAFAAOM, FADHA, Director, Education, Research & Advocacy