



**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill Number:** House Bill 45 – Dentist and Dental Hygiene Compact

**Hearing Date:** February 18, 2025

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Centers (MASBHC) supports *House Bill 45 – Dentist and Dental Hygiene Compact*. With the enactment of this legislation, Maryland would join ten other states in implementing this dental practice compact. Qualified dentists and dental hygienists would be permitted to practice in any state belonging to the Compact.

MASBHC supports this legislation because it would help school-based health centers recruit and retain dental providers. There are almost 90 school-based health centers that provide primary care and behavioral health services in underserved communities. About one-third of school-based health centers are able to offer dental services. More school-based health centers are interested in providing dental services, but recruiting and retaining dental providers is a major barrier. The Compact would help alleviate the dental provider shortage by allowing school-based health centers to engage qualified providers with licenses in other states.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

There are almost 90 school-based health centers providing primary and behavioral health services to students in high-poverty areas across Maryland. Some school-based health centers also provide dental services. Most students served by school-based health centers are uninsured or covered by Medicaid. School-based health centers spend tremendous resources navigating billing issues with Medicaid. We do not believe managed care organizations are included in the bill. We would appreciate consideration of adding Medicaid and managed care organizations to the legislation.



We ask for a favorable report with this amendment. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.