

Hello, my name is [Insert Name and organization]. I am testifying in support of [Insert Bill Number]. I would like to express my appreciation for your consideration of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. This compact is an initiative of the Department of Defense, The Council of State Governments, American Dental Association, and American Dental Hygienist Association.

The Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact utilizes a “compact privilege” model of interstate practice. To utilize the compact, a dentist or dental hygienist must have a license in good standing in a state that is a member of the compact. When a licensee wants to work in another participating state (known as a “remote state”), the licensee obtains a “compact privilege.”

The Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact preserves the regulatory authority of each compact participating state to protect public health and safety through the existing state regulatory structure. Unlike national licensure initiatives that supersede state regulatory authority, interstate occupational licensure compacts allow a participating state to continue to determine the requirements for licensure in that state, as well as to maintain that state’s unique scope of practice for all members of a profession practicing in that state, whether through a state-issued license or through a compact privilege.

We don’t anticipate substantial additional costs for states participating in the compact. There may be a cost for additional software required to connect to the compact’s interstate licensure data system as well as cost(s) associated with the attendance of your state’s chosen commissioner to the annual Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact Commission meeting once the compact is enacted in seven states.

The compact would have many benefits for [State] including:

- Improving licensure portability for dentists and dental hygienists;
- Improving access to oral healthcare providers;
- Increasing choice of dental care providers;
- Improves continuity of care for the citizens of [State];
- Preserves the existing state-based licensure system;
- Improves communication between states:
 - Mandates full participation in a licensing and disciplinary data system
 - Ensures that all adverse actions and disciplinary sanctions are reported

regularly to Commission and shared with participating states;

- Facilitates sharing of investigatory information
- Improves portability for military spouses:

According to the Department of Defense, Military families move every three years on average. The compact helps military spouses relocate and begin work without delay by reducing the amount of time and effort needed to gain authorization to practice in a new state, even as compared to expedited licensure laws for military spouses. As a member of the compact, [State] may become a more attractive option to call home for a military family with a dentist or dental hygienist.

Overall, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact will support military families, improve access to and continuity of care for [State] residents, and increase license portability for massage therapy professionals based in [State], while maintaining the current system of state licensure. Additionally, by ensuring the sharing of investigative and disciplinary information among participating states, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact will allow participating state regulatory entities to better protect the public.