



March 24, 2023

Dan Logsdon, Director
National Center for Interstate Compacts
The Council of State Governments
1776 Avenue of the States Lexington, KY 40511

Dear Mr. Logsdon:

The Association of Dental Support Organizations (ADSO) strongly supports the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. We encourage state legislatures across the country to adopt measures to join the compact, which will reduce barriers to license portability and help ensure all residents have access to quality dental care.

Approximately 68 million Americans live in an area with a shortage of dental health providers. In these areas, dental offices are struggling to keep up with demand. Right now, requirements for dental licensure are determined at the state level and are typically not transferrable to other states. That means if a dentist or dental hygienist wanted to relocate or expand operations across state lines, he or she would have to navigate significant financial and time burdens to acquire a new license. Many choose not to and, as a result, patients pay the price.

Today, several other related professions have enacted interstate compacts to help patients receive the care they need. Physicians, nurses, emergency medical technicians and physical therapists are among those who have license portability across many state lines. Given the clear link between oral healthcare and overall health outcomes, it makes sense that dentists and dental hygienists are afforded similar treatment.

The Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact serves as the framework for smart policymaking that will improve health outcomes for residents in participating states. For that reason, ADSO and its member companies are firmly committed to the compact and urge state lawmakers to join us.

Sincerely,

Andrew Smith

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director