

I am writing on behalf of the Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association (ODHA) to express our support for the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Interstate Compact Bill, Senate Bill 40, which was introduced by Senator Kristina Roegner. We advocate measures that strengthen our health care workforce. Streamlining the process for dentists and dental hygienists to be licensed in multiple states could improve access to care, particularly for our specialized services.

The American Dental Association, the American Dental Hygienists' Association, the Department of Defense and the Council of State Governments, created an interstate professional licensing compact for dentists and dental hygienists to address licensure portability. The compact is intended to facilitate interstate practice of dentistry and dental hygiene to improve access to these services. An interstate licensing compact would not change state statutes for dentists or dental hygienists or the scope of practice.

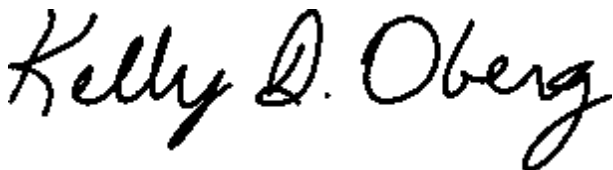
States that participate in the Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact must pass identical legislation. The compact takes effect once 10 states enact legislation. We believe well over 10 states want to join the Compact to fill workforce shortages created during the COVID-19 pandemic. We need willing providers to be licensed and ready to serve our communities.

Interstate occupational licensure compacts are game changers for professionals seeking to reduce barriers of access to care for patients. Like compacts that already exist for nurses, physical therapists, physicians, psychologists, and EMTs, Senate Bill 40 will enhance licensure portability while simultaneously improving the ability of state boards to protect patients and their families.

The Senate Bill 40 will significantly benefit patients, dentists, and dental hygienists, and the broader profession by

- Increasing access to care for patients;
- increase opportunities to practice across state lines;
- and allowing military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their profession when relocating.

Sincerely,



Kelly Oberg, RDH, BS
President
Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association

March 1, 2023