



October 16, 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,

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

Founded in 1937, WVDHA is a leading organization representing the professional interests of registered dental hygienists across the state. WVDHA 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. WVDHA'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.



The West Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association fully supports the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.

Sincerely,

***Lauren N. French***

Lauren N. French, BSDH, RDH, President

cc:

Madylin Hinkle

Dalton Cork

Ariana Hunt

Carly Scala

Janna Thornsbury

Ashlee Sowards

Mary Ann Yandrich

Liz Puette

Sharon Stemple Hinchman