

December 19, 2023

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

**RE: Support of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact**

Dear Director Logsdon:

On behalf of the American Association of Endodontists (AAE), I am writing in support of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. The AAE is the largest global association of endodontists, representing more than 8,000 members that are committed to delivering the highest standards of oral health care to their patients. Endodontists are dental specialists with distinctive expertise in the diagnosis and management of dental pain. Our specialty extends to preserving patients' natural teeth through root canal therapy and related surgical procedures, thereby contributing to the overall well-being and oral health of individuals under their care.

The AAE believes that the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact facilitates licensure reciprocity among participant states, which will ensure that the invaluable skills of dentists and dental hygienists can effectively reach underserved areas to ensure patients have access to quality dental care. In the face of staffing shortages plaguing the dental industry nationwide, the urgency of implementing this Compact cannot be overstated.

We also commend the Compact for safeguarding each state's authority to regulate their licensure and define scope of practice standards. This commitment underscores the importance of preserving autonomy for every state in regulating the dental profession and protecting patient safety.

Finally, we appreciate your collaborative partnership with the Department of Defense (DOD), dental organizations, state bodies, and other public entities during the policy development process. This open and transparent approach has yielded a Compact that not only meets the pressing needs of the healthcare industry but also aligns with the broader interests of the public.

The AAE fully supports the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact, and we look forward to working with you towards its nationwide adoption. Please contact Catherine French, AAE's Assistant Executive Director for Advocacy and Professional Relations, at [cfrench@aae.org](mailto:cfrench@aae.org) or (312) 872-0474 for additional information.

Sincerely,



Craig Hirschberg, DDS  
President, American Association of Endodontists