



April 15, 2024

Daniel 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 Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association (ODHA), I am writing to express our support for the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact (DDH Compact).

The DDH Compact legislation was developed by the Council of State Governments and stakeholders that include the American Dental Association, the American Dental Hygienists' Association and state dental licensing boards. A draft of this legislation was provided to other stakeholders for their review and feedback before it was finalized.

Currently, dentists and dental hygienists must obtain and maintain a license for each state where they practice. State by state licensure creates barriers in terms of both time and money that make it difficult for these licensed professionals to practice in more than one state or to relocate to another state. Because Oregon shares a border with Washington, many dentists and dental hygienists must obtain and maintain a license in each state if they want to practice in both states. Military families in Oregon who have licensed dental professionals face the same licensing barriers when they are relocated to another state.

The DDH Compact will reduce these barriers and facilitate license portability for dentists and dental hygienists by creating a system that allows them to obtain and maintain a license in just one state, and then be able to apply for compact privilege to practice in other states without the need to obtain and maintain a license for each of those states.

The DDH Compact preserves the authority of each member state to regulate the dental professionals in their state. Practitioners who use this compact must obey the law and rules for the state in which they are practicing and adhere to that state's scope of practice. Patients will benefit from having more licensed dental providers available to them and public safety will be enhanced because compact states will use a shared data system to track these professionals.

The ODHA fully supports the adoption of the DDH Compact legislation in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karan Bershaw'.

Karan Bershaw, RDH, MS
President
Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association