

February 14, 2025

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Javadi & Nelson and Members of the Committee Senate Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care 2025 Oregon Legislative Session

I am writing to you in support of HB 2676 that if passed, would enact the DDH Compact in Oregon.

I am a dental hygienist and dental hygiene educator in Klamath Falls, Oregon. I work for Oregon Institute of Technology as an educator in the dental hygiene bachelor's degree program.

I support the DDH Compact because I believe it will help with access to care in rural states and communities, improve workforce shortages, and allow for life events that, in our mobile society, take us to states we did not expect when gaining licensure. As the senior lead instructor at Oregon Tech, I work with students taking national and state licensing board exams. These are young adults who are highly educated yet do not know where life will be leading them. Having the DDH Compact will allow our graduates to practice in any of the participating states and use their skills and education to meet the needs of our population. This bill would allow hygienists, who are prevention specialists in dentistry, the mobility to meet workforce shortages and give access of care to more populations rather than filling the void with dental students or foreign dentists focused on treatment of disease.

I strongly urge you to refer HB2676 to the House with a do pass recommendation.

Sincerely

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