

Submitter: Laurena Santos
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health
Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2676

I am writing to you in support of HB 2676 that if passed would enact the DDH Compact in Oregon. I am a full time dental hygienist in Portland and its metro area.

I support the DDH Compact because we have a nationwide shortage of dental hygienists; we are long past due of having license portability that would allow us to continue to provide high quality preventative dental care in our communities. I understand there is a concern of having "untested dental professionals" in Oregon - however, all dentists and hygienists pass a NATIONAL board exam after graduation. Currently, there are some states that are proposing bills to have those with little to no qualifications provide care with patients in an effort to relieve a back-log of patients - this is far more concerning and a compact would strengthen our workforce. Additionally, having a shared database with other states would increase public safety, as actions against licenses would be reported to all states.

Increasing license portability will allow hygienists to travel freely across state lines to provide patient care. It is extremely time consuming and a costly process to apply for and maintain licensure in multiple states -- it would especially relieve shortage issues across Portland/Vancouver state lines.

This compact has already been approved by 10 states and I hope that you will join the dental community with support in HB 2676.

Sincerely,
Laurena Santos RDH