

February 18, 2025

Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Javadi & 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 an expanded practice dental hygienist; I live in Hillsboro and I work at Portland Community College teaching Dental Hygiene. I also work with Onsite Dental.

I support the DDH Compact because, during my husband's service in the U.S. Coast Guard, we moved every 2–5 years. While I wasn't a dental hygienist at the time, I saw firsthand the challenges it created for those in the profession. One hygienist I knew held **licenses in 10 different states**, each requiring separate applications, fees, and continuing education requirements. The process was both costly and time-consuming, making it difficult to maintain a career while frequently relocating.

With the DDH Compact, dental hygienists would hold a license in their home state and, if other states participate, could more easily practice across state lines. This would reduce licensing costs and streamline continuing education (CE) requirements.

Now, as a dental hygiene instructor, I work with students who plan to move after graduation. The compact would provide them with greater flexibility, allowing them to obtain their Oregon dental hygiene license and transition seamlessly to another participating state. This initiative would expand career opportunities and reduce unnecessary barriers for dental hygienists nationwide.

I strongly urge you to refer HB 2676 to the House with a do pass recommendation

Sincerely,

Laura Vanderwerf, EPDH, BSDH, FADHA, CDA