

February 20, 2025

Chair Nosse, and Members of the House Committee
on Behavioral Health and Health Care
2025 Oregon Legislative Session

I am writing on behalf of all Dental Hygiene Program Directors in Oregon to urge your **support for HB 2676**, which would enact the Dental and Dental Hygiene (DDH) Compact in Oregon.

All 50 states currently participate in at least one interstate compact, and 33 states have adopted at least six compacts. These compacts facilitate multistate practice, maintain or improve public health and safety, and most importantly **preserve state authority** over professional licensing. Sixteen professions – including medicine, nursing, physical therapy, and psychology – have already established active interstate licensing compacts.

We, as Program Directors in the academic setting, strongly support the DDH Compact for the following reasons:

- It allows mobility for dental providers who have received equivalent education from accredited dental programs.
- It reduces the financial burden to dentists and dental hygienists who relocate during their careers, eliminating the financial burden of holding a license in multiple states.
- It requires a clinical assessment to protect public safety by measuring clinical competence.
- It has the potential to address workforce shortage by reducing barriers to practice in Oregon.
- It creates opportunities to recruit more highly qualified dental and dental hygiene faculty to teach in Oregon programs and clinics.

As Program Directors, we frequently receive inquiries from graduates seeking licensure in other states, which often requires them to provide documentation beyond their diploma, including proof of graduation from an accredited program and successful completion of both clinical and national board exams. An interstate compact would alleviate the significant burden of time and lost income for these qualified practitioners.

One of the most common misconceptions about the DDH compact is that it limits state dental boards' authority over compact licensees. This is untrue. If a qualifying license is subject to adverse action in the home state, compact privileges are automatically revoked, as these privileges are contingent upon maintaining an unencumbered license. Additionally, if a licensee is subject to adverse action in a state where they hold a

compact privilege, the home state is notified and retains the authority to take appropriate action.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to refer HB 2676 to the House with a "do pass" recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

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