

Date: March 14, 2024

To: The Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

From: Kevin Robertson, Executive Director

RE: **Support of HB 2453**– Dentist/Dental Hygienist Licensure Compact

Chairman Gossage and members of the Committee, I am Kevin Robertson, Executive Director of the Kansas Dental Association (KDA) representing the dentists in the state of Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity support **HB 2453**.

HB 2453 is the Dentist Dental Hygienist Licensure Compact bill that was jointly created by the Council on State Governments, Department of Defense, American Dental Association, American Dental Hygienists Association, several state dental boards, and dental educators, among others. I am particularly pleased to testify in support of House Bill 2453 because it advances an issue that the American Dental Association and the KDA have long supported...dental licensure reciprocity and portability.

Getting to this point has been made complex due to a network of several competing dental testing services/agencies which are piecemealed across the country and have their own unique view of dental testing requirements in which states have traditionally aligned. For example, states traditionally required dental school graduates to complete a clinical licensing exam to be eligible for licensure. Those exams have generally been based on region for no particular reason. When I first began working with the KDA in 1997, the Kansas Dental Board only accepted the results of the Central Regional Dental Testing Service exam for licensure purposes. The Kansas Dental Board now accepts all dental exams and uses a process of “licensure-by-credential” to allow licensed dentists outside of our state to become licensed in Kansas.

Licensure by credential is a process whereby a dentist licensed in another state with a “clean” dental license history, background check and passing a Kansas jurisprudence exam can become licensed in Kansas without taking a second regional dental licensure exam.

The adoption of the dentist dental hygienist compact is another step forward as it will allow dentists in other “compact states” to move more freely between those states without having to go through a burdensome licensure process and will most benefit highly mobile dentists like spouses of those serving in the military.

I know the Committee is knowledgeable about Licensure Compacts overseen by the Council on State Governments (CSG) so I'll let Matt Shafer with CSG address its innerworkings of the compact.

The consideration and adoption of a dental compact comes at a good time. We know dentists are becoming ever more mobile and a study released in September 2023 by the American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute showed that Kansas had a 4.5% in migration of dentists between 2019-2022! In other words, more dentists moved into Kansas than moved out. In fact, Kansas outperformed all of our border states including Colorado with an in migration of only .9%. Missouri (-6.6%), Nebraska (-2.4%), and Oklahoma (-2.7%) all saw an overall out migration of dentists in that same time period.

At this point, five states (IA, TN, VA, WA, WI) have passed the Dentist Dental Hygienist Licensure Compact and 12 other states have it introduced—Alabama, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and so bills are moving. Kansas currently accepts eight CSG licensure compacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB 2453! I will be happy answer any questions you may have at the appropriate time.

**MIGRATION OF NEW DENTISTS\* WITHIN THE U.S. FROM 2019-2022**

\*New dentists are dentists with less than 10 years of experience in 2019 who remained active in 2022.

