

March 5, 2024

Sen. Melissa H. Wiklund, Chair
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
2107 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for S.F. 2990; Dentist and Dental Hygienist Licensure Compact

Dear Senator Wiklund,

The Minnesota Dental Hygienists Association (the “MnDHA”) supports S.F. 2990 (Nelson), which would enroll the State of Minnesota in a new Interstate Licensure Compact for dentists and dental hygienists (the “Compact”). Initiated by the Council of State Governments in collaboration with the United States Department of Defense, the American Dental Hygienists Association, and the American Dental Association, the Compact will increase Minnesota’s ability to attract talented health care professionals while ensuring that the Minnesota Board of Dentistry still has the tools it needs to protect Minnesotans.

The MnDHA believes the Compact would have many benefits for Minnesota, most notably:

- **Attracting Licensed Providers to Minnesota:** With ongoing health care workforce issues and an increasing mobile professional workforce, it is important that Minnesota attract talent from other states. Whether looking to relocate for personal economic, or cultural reasons, the Compact would remove a barrier and help Minnesota compete for talent.
- **Support Teledentistry & Multi-State Practice:** Post-COVID innovations in telehealth, including the use of store-and-forward technology, allows members of a patient’s care team to be located all over the country. As Minnesota providers age and choose to split their time between states, the Compact will allow them to continue to care for Minnesotans and avoid unnecessary withdrawals from our healthcare workforce.

At the same time, the MnDHA believes the Compact would preserve the Minnesota Board of Dentistry’s authority over the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene in the state. We believe this legislation will streamline the process for licensees to practice in multiple states while preserving the safety of the public.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Lali Williams, LDH
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Minnesota Dental Hygienists Association
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