



March 25, 2024

Senator Ron Latz
Chair, Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
3105 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Latz and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Dental Association, I express our organization's support for SF2990, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Interstate Licensure Compact.

SF2990 will help improve Minnesota's dental workforce challenges and improve patient access to care. Recent data obtained within our membership indicate that over two-thirds of dentists in Minnesota have found it to be "extremely challenging" or "very challenging" to hire dental hygienists. Patient wait times have increased as a direct consequence of staffing shortages. Minnesota is in great need of dental hygienists and dentists to provide quality and efficient patient care.

Bordering states such as Iowa and Wisconsin have become member states of the compact. Should Minnesota become a member state, patients in bordering communities can enjoy a greater continuity of care. It would also allow dentists and hygienists to work across state lines and expands the potential use of teledentistry. The compact will also allow these states to work collaboratively to ensure that public safety is maintained.

The MDA thanks the Minnesota Board of Dentistry and Senator Nelson for bringing forward SF2990. I ask that you support the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Murphy".

Dan Murphy, MPP
Director of Government Affairs
dmurphy@mndental.org
612-767-4255

About the Minnesota Dental Association

The Minnesota Dental Association is the voice of dentistry in Minnesota, representing practicing dentists. It is committed to the highest standards of oral health and access to care for all Minnesotans. Learn more at: www.mndental.org.

March 26, 2024

Sen. Ron Latz, Chair
Senate Judiciary & Public Safety Committee
3105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

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

Dear Senator Latz,

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
President
Minnesota Dental Hygienists Association
laliangel.mndha@gmail.com