

January 30, 2024

The Honorable Camille Y. Lilly  
Assistant Majority Leader  
523-A Stratton Office Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

**RE: Support of House Bill 4579**

Dear Assistant Majority Leader Lilly:

On behalf of the American Association of Endodontists (AAE), I am writing in support of House Bill 4579 regarding the ratification of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact in Illinois. The AAE is the largest global association of endodontists, representing more than 8,000 members that are committed to delivering the highest standards of oral health care to their patients. Endodontists are dental specialists with distinctive expertise in the diagnosis and management of dental pain. Our specialty extends to preserving patients' natural teeth through root canal therapy and related surgical procedures, thereby contributing to the overall well-being and oral health of individuals under their care.

House Bill 4579 would ratify the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact in Illinois, allowing dentists and dental hygienists licensed in any compact state to practice in another. The Compact facilitates licensure reciprocity among participant states while preserving each state's authority to regulate its own licensure and scope of practice standards. The National Center for Interstate Compacts developed this compact with public partnership with the Department of Defense (DOD), state bodies, dental organizations, and the public to ensure the Compact increased portability and upheld patient safety.

Compact licensure agreements play a vital role in enhancing the distribution of healthcare services in the United States. Currently, forty states and territories have adopted similar healthcare licensure compacts for various providers, including emergency medical technicians, nurses, physicians, physical therapists, and psychologists. In the face of staffing shortages plaguing the dental industry nationwide, the urgency of implementing this Compact cannot be overstated. Its implementation stands as a pivotal measure to ensure that the invaluable skills of dentists and dental hygienists find their way to the underserved areas where they are needed most.

The AAE applauds the introduction of House Bill 4579, and we look forward to working with you to advance this legislation in the Illinois General Assembly. Please contact Catherine French, AAE's Assistant Executive Director for Advocacy and Professional Relations, at [cfrench@aae.org](mailto:cfrench@aae.org) or (312) 872-0474 for additional information.

Sincerely,



Craig Hirschberg, DDS  
President, American Association of Endodontists