

January 30, 2024

The Honorable Troy Waymaster  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
Kansas State Capitol  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Room 111-N  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

The Honorable Henry Helgerson  
Ranking Minority Member, House Appropriations Committee  
Kansas State Capitol  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Room 47-S  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

**RE: Support of House Bill 2453**

Dear Chair Waymaster and Ranking Minority Member Helgerson:

On behalf of the American Association of Endodontists (AAE), I am writing in support of the House Appropriations Committee's legislation, House Bill 2453, regarding the ratification of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact in Kansas. 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 2453 would ratify the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact in Kansas, 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 fully supports House Bill 2453 and looks forward to collaborating with the Committee on its immediate passage. 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

CC: Members of the House Committee on Appropriations