

February 5, 2024

The Honorable Kristina D. Roegner
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
1st Floor – Room 142
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Support of SB 40

Dear Senator Roegner:

On behalf of the American Association of Endodontists (AAE), I am writing in support of SB 40, regarding the ratification of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact in Ohio. 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.

SB 40 would ratify the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact in Ohio, 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 SB 40, and we look forward to collaborating with you to advance this legislation in the Ohio General Assembly. Please contact Catherine French, AAE's Assistant Executive Director for Advocacy and Professional Relations, at cfrench@aae.org or (312) 872-0474 for additional information.

Sincerely,



Craig Hirschberg, DDS
President, American Association of Endodontists