

December 12, 2023

The Honorable Al Cutrona  
Chair, House Health Provider Services Committee  
77 South High Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chair Cutrona,

On behalf of Delta Dental of Ohio, thank you for the opportunity to offer written proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 40, which would enter Ohio as a party to the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.

SB 40 will provide more dental professionals the ability to serve Ohioans by creating reciprocity among participating states and reducing current barriers to license portability. Along with the American Dental Association and the American Dental Hygienists' Association, the Ohio State Dental Board participated in the development of the process.

Oral Health Ohio (OHO) recently released the 2023-2027 State Oral Health Plan that contained the goal of developing pipeline programs and recruitment strategies for health professionals serving underserved areas and/or populations. Passage of SB 40 has been identified by OHO as an action step that can be taken to meet this goal. I am proud to join my fellow OHO Board members in supporting this goal through passage of SB 40.

The Delta Dental Foundation is doing its part to address dental workforce issues for underserved areas and populations through its Diversity Dental Student Scholarship, which provides \$25,000 annual scholarships to students from systemically underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds who are entering Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine and the Ohio State University College of Dentistry. By working together through public and private initiatives, we can expand and improve the dental workforce and thereby improve access to care in communities with unmet dental health needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB 40. I look forward to working with you and members of the House Health Provider Services Committee to improve the oral health of all Ohioans.

Sincerely,



Erika Cybulskis

cc: Members of the House Health Provider Services Committee