

Proponent Testimony
Senate Bill 40
Joseph P. Crowley, D.D.S.
Coalition for Modernization of Dental Licensure

Ohio House Health Provider Services Committee
December 12, 2023

Chair Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Provider Services Committee:

My name is Dr. Joseph Crowley. I am an Ohio licensed dentist and owned a private practice for over 41 years in the State of Ohio. During my career I was very active in our professional organizations, including being president of the Cincinnati Dental Society, the Ohio Dental Association, and the American Dental Association.

I am currently the Chairman of a national coalition, the Coalition for the Modernization of Dental Licensure. Our group has actively advocated for broad change in process for Initial Licensure for dentists in all dental jurisdictions throughout the country, and we have advocated for a modern approach for the portability of the professional licenses held by dentists and dental hygienists in our country. In conjunction with the U.S. Department of Defense and the National Center for Interstate Compacts (CSG), the American Dental Association, the American Dental Hygiene Association, the American Dental Education Association, and many other interested dental groups have worked tirelessly to create a dental licensure compact. This proposed compact will effectively allow trained and successful licensed oral healthcare providers the ability to deliver care in multiple jurisdictions without the procedural difficulty of going through a duplicative initial licensure process in every state an individual may choose to work in.

The process to obtain a dental license in any jurisdiction in the United States has become very consistent and many states, but not all, have a process for licensure reciprocity. The Dentist and Dental Hygiene Compact greatly reduces the administrative burden for an individual to obtain practice privileges in another state while preserving the jurisdiction of state dental boards to ensure patient safety and protection of the public within their borders.

This subject was encouraged by the U.S. Department of Defense so military families that often move locations during their career can provide their professional skill no matter what jurisdiction they are moved into. This prompts the natural conversation that a dental professional holding an unencumbered provider license could also benefit from a process that allows movement easily. We know the current generations in America are very mobile, moving their home base multiple times during their careers. The benefit of moving their

career credentials simply is very attractive to the mobile dentist and dental hygienist. Also, workforce difficulties in some areas of our state and country, and charitable dental events that need an abundant work force will benefit tremendously by having individuals capable of multiple practice jurisdictions. There are many other benefits of enacting licensure compacts, which is why Ohio has already passed such compacts for other health care professionals, including physicians and nurses.

The National Center for the Interstate Compacts for the Council of State Governments was the natural entity to move this forward. CSG convened a group of interested parties to develop the model legislation that is reflected in Senate Bill 40. This legislation has been developed to provide for appropriate protocols to ensure professional competence, patient safety, and cooperation between states.

Although this is new to dentistry, the successful processes that have been in place for other healthcare professions for multiple years should give confidence that this new process for dental licensure will be similarly successful and beneficial to both licensees and the public.

I ask that you vote yes on Senate Bill 40 and join Ohio to the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Licensure Compact.

Thank you for your attention and I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.