

**Kristina Roegner**  
State Senator  
27<sup>th</sup> Senate District



## **Sponsor Testimony**

Senate Bill 40

Ohio House Health Provider Services Committee

June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Chair Cutrona, Vice-Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and Members of the House Health Provider Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on S.B. 40. Upon enactment, S.B. 40 would join Ohio to the “Dentist and Dental Hygienist Licensure Compact.” This legislation passed the Senate unanimously by a 31-0 vote on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact is an interstate occupational licensure compact for dentists and dental hygienists. An interstate licensure compact is a legally binding, legislatively enacted contract among participating states. States joining a compact agree to recognize a license issued by another compact member state via a “compact privilege”. “Compact privilege,” is the authority given to a professional to practice in a member state, or “remote state,” which is equivalent to licensure in their “home state”.

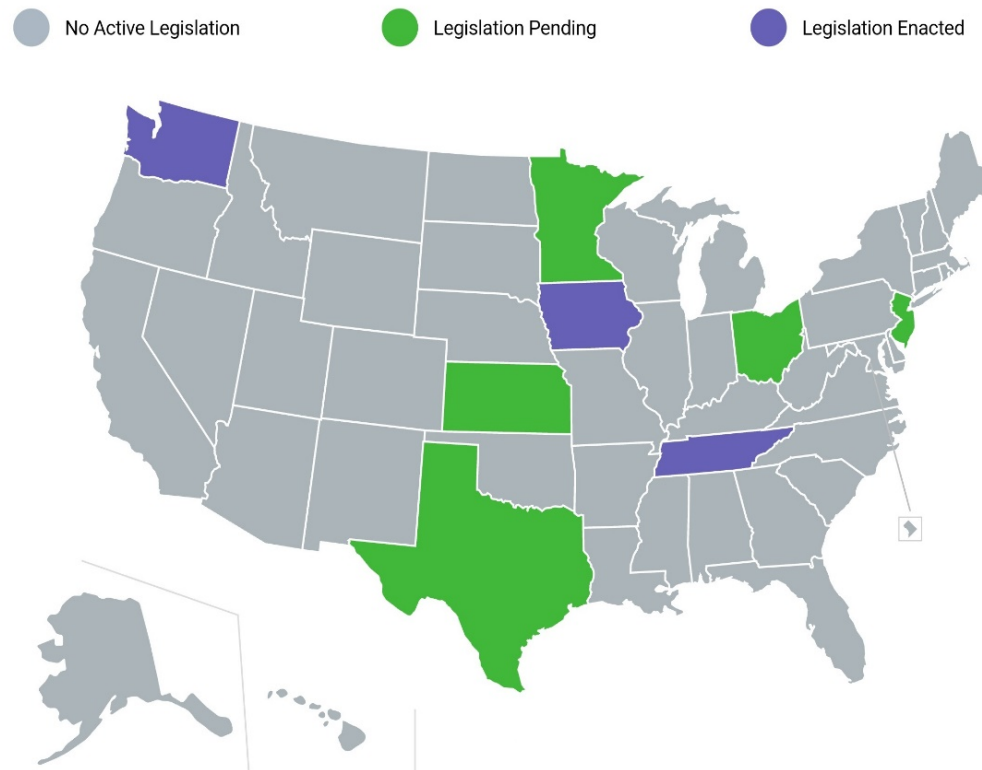
The Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact (“the Compact,”) is similar in form and function to the other compacts Ohio has already enacted into law, in that a dentist or dental hygienist must hold an active, unencumbered license in a compact member state to be eligible to apply for a compact privilege. These practitioners must also pass a background check and meet other eligibility requirements related to education and examinations. From a regulatory standpoint, there are no changes to each compact member state’s authority to protect public health and safety through the existing state regulatory structure – a licensee practicing under compact privilege must abide by the laws, regulations and rules for the state in which they are located. <sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://compacts.csg.org/compact-updates/dentistry-and-dental-hygiene/#:~:text=A%20compact%20privilege%20is,all%20fees%20are%20paid>.

The Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact is reaching the end of its formative stage, with a stakeholder group first coalescing in 2021. This group consisted of eight state dental boards, including representatives from Ohio, who worked collaboratively with various dental schools, the Council of State Governments (CSG), and the Department of Defense (DOD) to develop model language. This language was released in late 2022, and the American Dental Association (ADA) and the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) have both given it their stamp of approval. At the state level, the Ohio Dental Association and the Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association both testified as proponents of the bill in the Senate.

With Compact language approved and finalized, it is now ready for state enactment and the commission will form once seven states have enacted legislation.<sup>2</sup> Tennessee, Iowa, Texas, and Washington introduced bills before we did here in Ohio, and Washington, Iowa, and Tennessee have already enacted their legislation into law. Since



then, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Kansas have also introduced legislation to join.<sup>3</sup>

Ohio's dentists and dental hygienists chose to work proactively, taking a seat at the table during the development process, and it would be wonderful if Ohio could be one of the first seven states to enact legislation so they keep that seat at the table while Compact rules are established. Passing this bill expeditiously would accomplish that and signal that the Buckeye State will continue to be a national leader in increasing access to care for patients and maximizing mobility for licensed professionals.

<sup>2</sup> [Lines 964-966 of bill](#)

<sup>3</sup> <https://ddhcompact.org/compact-map/>

The lack of occupational licensure reciprocity is a real barrier for individuals seeking to move across state lines. Researchers at the University of Minnesota found that the interstate migration rate for individuals in occupations with state-specific licensing exam requirements is 36% lower relative to those in non-licensed occupations.<sup>4</sup>

Maximizing mobility and ensuring license portability is even more important for our military families. In 2021, Dr. Elizabeth Burgin, a military spouse and licensed mental health counselor provided some statistics that I would like to share with you<sup>5</sup>:

- Military families relocate every 2-3 years (10x more often than civilians)
- 34% of military spouses hold at least one professional license
- 22% of licensees are unemployed
- There is a 26% wage gap between military licensees and civilian licensees
- 1 in 5 military licensees has waited 10+ months for a license transfer<sup>6</sup>

This Compact supports military families in two distinct ways. First, like other compacts, if a military family gets assigned to a new duty station in a compact member state, the service member or their spouse can continue to work with their current compact privilege. However, this Compact goes beyond other compacts which preceded it, and specifies that **active-duty military members and their spouses shall not be required to pay the commission fee for a compact privilege; and it allows a remote state to choose to charge a reduced fee or no fee to active-duty military and their spouses if they charge a fee for compact privilege.**<sup>7</sup>

With over 15,000 licensed dentists and dental hygienists in Ohio<sup>8</sup> and 425,000 nationwide<sup>9</sup>, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact certainly will help ease the licensure burden for military families and civilians alike.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.minneapolisfed.org/research/sr/sr561.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://counselingcompact.org/tool-kit/> (see video time marker 2:05)

<sup>6</sup> <https://counselingcompact.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/CC-Summit-Slides-2021.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> [Lines 314-319 of the bill](#)

<sup>8</sup> <https://dental.ohio.gov/static/Annual%20Reports/ANNUAL%20REPORT%20-%20DENTAL%20BOARD%20-%202021%202022.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://compacts.csg.org/compact-updates/dentistry-and-dental-hygiene/>