



February 6, 2024

Chairman Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani and all members of the House Health Provider Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Kimber Cobb and I am the Executive Director of the American Association of Dental Boards. AADB is a national association comprised of State Boards of Dentistry and has existed for 140 years. We assist State Dental Boards with their obligation to protect the public by promoting higher and uniform standards in the professions of dentistry and dental hygiene. We wholly support the concept of expedited dental/dental hygiene licensure that maintains the current longstanding requirements for public protection. However, as you've heard here today, we have grave concerns that the language in SB40 would significantly lower these standards, thereby endangering citizens in Ohio.

As a dental hygienist, former educator and military wife who's held licenses in multiple states over the years, I share these concerns and others that will impact the profession of dental hygiene specifically. SB40 has the potential to eliminate completely any dental hygiene voice or representation from a participating State Dental Board due to the fact that only one commission representative is designated.

Additionally, SB40 provides the potential for non-accredited dental hygiene graduates from educational programs outside the United States and/or with less stringent didactic and clinical requirements to obtain a compact privilege. Should mistreatment of patients in OH occur, they are left without any recourse due to the State Board's inability to discipline the licensee appropriately.

Many of the AADB's State Board Members and Attorneys expressed their concerns about the language within SB40 early in its development process, however, these concerns fell on deaf ears, they were informed that no changes could be made to the draft language, so they withdrew their support. Ohio

legislators did their due diligence related to the nursing compact introduced via SB 3 during the 134th General Assembly and approved 9 amendments to that compact, despite the fact legislation had already passed in 35 states!

Again, we support the concept of a licensure compact for the dental and dental hygiene professions, and we are open to amendments to SB40 so that the standards of excellence in the dental profession that have been upheld for over a century continue to exist and thereby protect the citizens of Ohio.

We thank you for your time today and appreciate the opportunity to testify regarding our concerns and opposition related to SB40.

With appreciation,

Kimber Cobb, RDH, BS
AADB Executive Director