



February 18th, 2025
House Committee on Health Care

Dear Chair Black, Vice Chair McFaun and all distinguished members of the House Committee on Health Care:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on H 47, which adopts the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. My name is Alicia Plemmons, PhD, and I am an assistant professor and co-director of the Knee Regulatory Research Center at West Virginia University. This comment is not submitted on behalf of any party or interest group.

My research studies patient outcomes in terms of safety, quality, cost, and access under different practice agreements. Compacts are a unique solution to workforce mobility problems, and in fact my team has found evidence of beneficial outcomes for similar compacts, such as the interstate medical licensure compact for the physicians¹, and the enhanced nurse licensure compact for nurses².

While beneficial, piecemeal solutions through compacts have led to several logistical problems attempting to modernize healthcare legislation, develop continuing education programs, and in developing differential licensure systems for each profession.

An alternative, which has found great success in attracting skilled workers, is universal licensing recognition³, where all licenses in good standing within other states are recognized. While Vermont passed a version of universal licensing recognition in 2020, the practice of dentistry was specifically exempted. The states which have chosen to address all professions at once, including dentistry practices, have been more flexible and responsive, bolstering their state workforce and access to safe, high quality, cost effective medical care.

In summary, while this compact does have potential benefits, the research suggests there is a more efficient pathway to beneficial economic outcomes through universal licensing recognition.

Best regards,

¹ https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4755497

² <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12122-022-09333-2>

³ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0165176522002920>

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