



To: Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
From: Amanda Knutt, RDH, CST, MSDH, FADHA
President
Kansas Dental Hygienists' Association
Date: March 9th, 2024

Madam Chairwoman and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony for HB 2453, a proposal to create a multi-state compact for dental hygienists and dentists. I am Amanda Knutt, President of the Kansas Dental Hygienists' Association (KDHA).

The Kansas Dental Hygienists' Association represents over 2,300 of the state's actively practicing registered dental hygienists. KDHA works to advance the art and science of dental hygiene by ensuring access to quality oral health care, increasing awareness of the cost-effective benefits of prevention, promoting the highest standards of dental hygiene education, licensure, practice and research, and representing and promoting the interests of dental hygienists.

Through the American Dental Hygienists' Association, KDHA has closely followed the work to create the dentist and dental hygienist compact with the industry's partner organizations. As the committee is aware, multi-state compacts are becoming more common to make it easier to join the local workforce, similar to our revised licensure reciprocity laws.

On behalf of KDHA I am expressing support for HB 2453, which would allow Kansas the opportunity to join the compact as a participating state. We stand ready to collaborate with stakeholders, including the Kansas Dental Association, Kansas Dental Board and Association of Dental Support Organizations, to ensure the legislation helps address the oral health needs of the state and provide an opportunity for registered dental hygienists to serve Kansans.

Thank you again for the time.

Respectfully,

Amanda Knutt, RDH, CST, MSDH, FADHA
President
Kansas Dental Hygienists' Association