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**Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee
HB 2453 Proponent
March 14, 2024**

Chair Gossage and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony in support of HB 2453. My name is Tanya Dorf Brunner, and I am the Executive Director of Oral Health Kansas, Inc. We are the statewide advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the importance of lifelong dental health by shaping policy and educating the public.

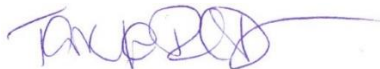
It has been over a dozen years since a [comprehensive study has been done on the dental workforce in our state](#). That study found that parts of the state are dental deserts, meaning there are some counties without any dental office. Since then, Kansas organizations have been creative in designing new ways to attract and keep dental practitioners in our state. **Enacting the [Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact in Kansas](#) would be one more important tool in our state's efforts to ensure every Kansan has access to a dental practitioner.**

As the consumer oral health advocacy organization, we know it is important to ensure that all Kansans have access to comprehensive oral health care. To that end **one of our top policy priorities is increasing access to dental providers**. The proposed Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact is one important way to increase access to dental providers in our state, which is why we are proud to support this legislation. Interstate compacts provide for state sovereignty in licensure while giving professionals flexibility, and most importantly providing more care options for consumers.

It is important to note that the **Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact preserves each member state's authority to regulate the profession**. Dental practitioners utilizing the compact must abide by the laws and rules of the state in which they are practicing and adhere to that state's scope of practice. Existing interstate occupational licensure compacts have been successful in reducing barriers for practitioners who wish to provide services in other states, especially for members of the military and their families.

Oral Health Kansas joins with our national organization, the **American Network of Oral Health Coalitions** (ANOHC) in supporting the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. We urge the Committee to pass HB 2453 because Kansans need to be able to access dental care providers in every corner of the state.

Sincerely,



Tanya Dorf Brunner
Executive Director
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