

March 4, 2024

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
2107 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Dental Association, I express our organization's support for SF2990, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Interstate Licensure Compact.

SF2990 will help improve Minnesota's dental workforce challenges and improve patient access to care. Recent data obtained within our membership indicate that over two-thirds of dentists in Minnesota have found it to be "extremely challenging" or "very challenging" to hire dental hygienists. Patient wait times have increased as a direct consequence of staffing shortages. Minnesota is in great need of dental hygienists and dentists to provide quality and efficient patient care.

Thus far, Iowa and Wisconsin have become member states of the compact. Should Minnesota become a member state, patients in bordering communities can enjoy a greater continuity of care. It would also allow dentists and hygienists to work across state lines and expands the potential use of teledentistry. The compact will also allow these states to work collaboratively to ensure that public safety is maintained.

The MDA thanks the Minnesota Board of Dentistry and Senator Nelson for bringing forward SF2990. I ask that you support the bill.

Should you have any questions, please contact the MDA's Director of Government Affairs, Dan Murphy, at dmurphy@mndental.org or 612-767-4255.

Sincerely,



Carmelo Cinqueonce, MBA
Executive Director

About the Minnesota Dental Association

The Minnesota Dental Association is the voice of dentistry in Minnesota, representing practicing dentists. It is committed to the highest standards of oral health and access to care for all Minnesotans. Learn more at: www.mndental.org.