

Official Position of the Dentistry in General Advocacy Coalition

Opposing the DDH Compact

Dentistry in General Advocacy Coalition supports dental licensure portability but strongly opposes the DDH Compact.

Dentists may have personal or professional reasons to practice in more than one state. But portability must be built on **accountability, patient protection, and real state authority**. The goal should be mobility with accountability, not shortcuts. The DDH Compact relies on practice privilege instead of licensure which weakens accountability, dilutes state oversight of licensure, and moves dentistry in the wrong direction.

The DDH privilege-based compact is the wrong model for dentistry. A compact for a surgical profession should preserve state standards, state authority, and accountability. **Licensing and discipline should stay with the state board where care is delivered.**

Under the DDH model, a central compact commission creates rules with the force of law that all compact states must adopt. That shifts authority away from the State Dental Board responsible for enforcing the State Dental Practice Act and protecting patients where treatment occurs.

The DDH Compact creates a two-track system, one for dentists the state licenses directly and another for dentists admitted under a compact privilege. The requirements may differ both for initial licensure and for ongoing licensure maintenance. In a surgical profession, that can weaken equal standards, state authority, and public accountability.

A better model for dentistry is a **board-driven, physician-style licensure** approach that preserves state licensure and state disciplinary authority **where care is delivered**. A portability system for dentists must **preserve the power of state dental boards** to regulate, discipline, and **protect the public**. Any acceptable model should **facilitate obtaining a license** to practice in any compact state, not a practice privilege. This includes meeting **uniform entry standards** that are compatible across compact states and preserving each state dental board's oversight and disciplinary authority.

A portability system **should serve the state's patients and dentists**, not be abbreviated or diluted for the **convenience of large interstate dental businesses**. A privilege-based model makes it easier for large-scale dental businesses to move high-producing dentists quickly from place to place in ways that maximize profit while weakening continuity of care, local accountability, and follow-up for patients.

States considering interstate licensure compacts should carefully examine existing licensure-based models before experimenting with a privilege-based compact for dentists.

This type of compact should be rejected.