



ADSO Commends Texas House on Passage of HB3039, Urges Texas Senate to Act

With the bill through House voting, Texas Senators have the opportunity to significantly alleviate the ongoing dental professional shortage

Washington, D.C. (May 9, 2023) -- The [Association of Dental Support Organizations](#) (ADSO) applauds the Texas House of Representatives on the passage of [HB3039](#), a Bill Relating to the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact, today. With the passage of this vital bill, the Texas Senate is now in position to pass the legislation into law, creating an interstate compact that will improve public access to dental care by streamlining the licensure process for dentists and dental Hygienist when relocating from participating states.

Texas, like many other states, faces a shortage of dental professionals that has a significant negative impact on the health of the state's residents. Nearly half of the states have passed universal licensure laws that recognize occupational licenses issued in other states. By joining this compact, the Texas legislature would effectively produce the same result by removing barriers for dental professionals seeking to move to the state and meet the existing demand for dental services.

Current Texas law places an undue burden on dental professionals – both dentists and hygienists – aiming to move to the state and continue practicing dentistry. Individuals who want to move and practice in Texas incur significant costs in terms of both time and finance as they seek to obtain a new license. This commonly results in prospective dental professionals deciding not to move, which in turn prevents the lessening of the current dental professional shortage in Texas.

“Legislative measures like the one making its way through the Texas statehouse right now are powerful tools for addressing the ongoing dental talent shortage affecting states across the nation,” said Andrew Smith, Executive Director of the ADSO. “With the passage of this bill, Texas lawmakers would demonstrate their commitment to the health of residents across the state, including rural areas most acutely impacted by the lack of dental professionals. We urge the Texas Senate to prioritize the swift passage of this bill.”

The Texas legislative session ends on May 29, and the bill is expected to move to voting before Senate membership in the coming days. Ahead of that vote, the ADSO urges Texas residents and other stakeholders to contact their state Senators in Austin and urge passage of this critical legislation.

About the ADSO

The Association of Dental Support Organizations (ADSO) is a non-profit trade association whose members support more than 11,000 dentists. ADSO supports its members through research, education and advocacy; enabling them to foster innovation, collaboration and a vibrant market where DSO-

supported dentists can provide quality oral health care. Visit www.theadso.org to learn more, and follow the ADSO on LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter.

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