

Executive Office  
6737 West Washington Street  
Suite 2360  
West Allis, Wisconsin 53214  
414.276.4520  
414.276.8431 FAX



Legislative Office  
5325 Wall Street,  
Suite 2000  
Madison, WI 53718  
608.250.3442  
608.282.7716 FAX

Good morning; Chair Dr. Bistan, Wisconsin Dental Examining Board members, Department of Safety and Professional Services staff and guests.

My name is Dr. Chris Hansen, I currently serve as president of the Wisconsin Dental Association (WDA), have been a dentist for over 40 years, and recently retired from my practice in Two Rivers.

Like many other sectors in our state economy, dentistry is experiencing severe workforce shortages. Between 2015 and 2018 in our small town of Two Rivers, we experienced the retirement of three dentists within 18 months with no successors available to take their place. We went from five dentists in a town of 13,000 (1/2000 is a more ideal ratio) to two in a short time. Usually, dentists can overcome this issue with technology and improved efficiency, but when there is a shortage of auxiliary personnel, it compounds the access issue and worsens the problem.

First, I would like to continue to thank all members of the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor Evers for their support of this crucial bipartisan legislation to improve access to oral healthcare in Wisconsin.

Second, I would like to congratulate longtime WDA member Dr. Matt Bistan for being selected as Wisconsin's first Commissioner as part of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist (DDH) Compact Commission. There is no doubt; he will serve as a fine leader as we move through this new experience together. Thank you Board members for your thoughtful consideration.

The WDA recognizes there are workforce shortage issues in our state, and we need to use all the tools available to improve access to oral healthcare. To that point: the WDA believes the Licensure Compacts will streamline that process and will work to attract dentists and dental hygienists from nearby states through participation in the Compact Agreement.

License portability is an important issue with younger dentists and will encourage the migration of professionals into Wisconsin. The WDA believes when professionals from other surrounding states see the economic opportunity and the quality-of-life Wisconsin communities have to offer, it will be a net positive draw into our state.

The Wisconsin Dental Association stands ready to offer any assistance/guidance we can provide and pledges to work with all interested parties to advance the shared goals of the Dental Examining Board and DDH Compact Commission throughout this onboard process.

Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions.