

September 11, 2024

### Dental and Dental Hygiene Compacts:

CRDTS has taken an official position regarding compacts. CRDTS does not see the value of either compact given that most states already have credentialing and/or reciprocity. The addition of one or more compacts just adds another layer of bureaucracy to an already complicated system.

However, CRDTS does not oppose a dental and dental hygiene compact generally speaking, IF a well written compact is introduced. The CRDTS leadership asks you to join us in opposing both of the current compacts being introduced to legislatures (the CSG Compact and the AADB Compact) as neither of these compacts are written in an acceptable manner with the best interest of the dental profession at heart.

The CSG compact, now accepted in seven or more states, has been enacted. What most dental professionals do not realize is that this compact **allows for a licensure examination that does not have a psychomotor hand skills component**. Thus, if your state requires a psychomotor hand skills component but your state also joins the CSG Compact, then licensed professionals who have not taken and passed a psychomotor hand skills exam, will have the right to practice in your state. Just like the AADB compact, they are dictating to state dental boards which licensure examinations are acceptable rather than adhering to the laws and regulations already passed in each state, by circumventing the dental boards.

The AADB Compact has been introduced into legislation in two states and is set to be introduced into several more states in 2025. It can be enacted after five states have passed it into legislation.

Some concerns with the AADB compact are as follows:

#### **Line 464; Section 11. RULEMAKING FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION**

b) Rules issued by the Commission shall have **the force of law** in each Member State.

*This effectively means the rules set by the Compact Commission overrides the state laws in place currently. While this can be argued by citing some of the other language in the compact, anyone who has been part of a lawsuit will tell you it will be up to the interpretation of attorneys and the court ultimately. States are giving authority to the compacts and will have to sue if they disagree with the compact rules.*

#### **Lines 473-475; Section 12. OVERSIGHT OF THE COMPACT**

a) “...The provisions of the Compact and the rules promulgated hereunder shall have **standing as statutory law** but shall not override existing state authority to regulate the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene.”

*which means when the commission of 5 states that only accept ADEX decides to completely eliminate another testing agency, they can do so and the rule will have “standing as statutory law.” Just because your state accepts other exams, a professional licensed in your state will NOT be able to get compact privilege if they have not 1) taken the ADEX exam; or 2) practiced for 5 years after passing a different exam, in effect removing the authority of the dental board to say which exam is or is not acceptable.*

## Section 16. WITHDRAWAL

- a) Once effective, the Compact shall continue in force and remain binding upon each and every Member State; provided, however, that a Member State may withdraw from the Compact after giving appropriate notice **by specifically repealing the statute which enacted the Compact into law.”**

*This is the same for any compact passed into law by the state legislature. No different than the other compact. Once in the only way out is by getting the law repealed. The AADB is condemning this in the CSG compact while spinning it as a positive in the AADB compact.*

## Lines 94-96 and 115-117; Section 2. DEFINITIONS

**(p)** Has successfully passed the ADEX dental hygiene licensure examination; or has been in practice 5 94 years or more and has successfully passed a Regional Board Examination or equivalent state-95 administered psychomotor licensure examination **prior to January 1, 2024;**

**(r)** Has successfully passed the ADEX dental licensure exam; or has been in practice 5 years or more and 115 has successfully passed a Regional Board Examination or equivalent state-administered psychomotor 116 licensure examination **prior to January 1, 2024;**

*The AADB Compact claims to uphold state dental boards' sovereignty, yet this clause is dictating to the State dental boards which exams are acceptable for participation in the compact, in direct conflict of maintaining state board sovereignty.*

*If an applicant wants compact privilege and passed the CRDTS exam which is a nationally recognized exam deemed to be of substantial quality by more than 80% of the US states\*, they will not be granted a compact privilege until they have practiced for 5 years or more **and took the exam before January 1 of 2024.** Thus, if a candidate takes and passes the CRDTS exam in 2025 or later, they will not be eligible for the compact privilege without going back and taking the ADEX exam. **This is a blatant effort to take away choice of exams from schools, candidates and state dental boards and create a monopoly in testing.***

*\*Note – the only reason many states do not accept other exams is because when there was a movement toward all agencies giving the ADEX exam some states included ADEX in their statutes and rules – it is NOT because the exams don't meet the state's requirements. Quite the opposite is true, however, getting laws changed is a long arduous process.*

The leadership of CRDTS and other testing agencies are concerned about the sovereignty of the state dental boards. As a national organization whose mission is “To serve as a resource by providing a national forum for exchange, development, and dissemination of information **to assist dental regulatory boards with their obligation to protect the public,**” the AADB seems to have made some questionable decisions recently that may be viewed as conflicts of interest.

The AADB has received a “large donation” from the CDCA conglomerate. This was stated by the president of the AADB, Dale Chamberlain, himself at last year's annual meeting as he thanked the sponsors. Additionally, the “authors” of the AADB compact, per statement from the AADB President, are Kimber Cobb, Director of Dental Hygiene Exams and Susan Rogers, who is the Executive Director and attorney for the Oklahoma State Dental Board. Oklahoma recently stopped accepting the CRDTS examination at the

behest of Ms. Rogers, without notification or explanation to the CRDTS organization. The **CDCA/WREB/CITA conglomerate is the only testing agency allowed to give the ADEX examination.** By letter from the ADEX President, **CRDTS, and at least one other testing agency, have been denied membership to ADEX.**

Why would the AADB, which was organized to assist dental regulatory boards with their obligation to protect the public, align themselves with a single testing agency rather than all nationally recognized testing agencies? If portability is truly one of the core goals of this compact, there would not be one specific exam, and by virtue of only one testing agency being allowed to give the ADEX exam only one specific testing agency, dictated in the compact. All nationally recognized examinations that meet the requirements for licensure in each state should be acceptable as a condition of compact privilege upon application, same as the ADEX exam, NOT only after 5 years of practice.

Finally, the AADB refers to the ADEX exam the “gold standard.” By what authority can they call the ADEX exam the gold standard? More than 80% of the states in the US consider the CRDTS examination to be of equal or higher quality than the ADEX examination. Therefore, the AADB should have objectively looked at all nationally recognized exams before aligning themselves with exam and one testing agency.

CRDTS is not opposed to a well-written compact that is created for the right reasons, greater portability, and public safety. The AADB compact does not achieve either of these goals by dictating to the state dental boards what exams are acceptable in their respective states.