

Dear Representatives of Bangor and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is MacKayla Faloon, and I am a recent graduate of the University of Maine's Social Work Undergraduate program. I am writing today in support of LD 1837: An Act to Increase Oral Health Services.

This bill is important to me, not only as a social worker about to work in the field, but also as a mom. As a social worker, I believe that everyone should have access to care regardless of their financial situation. Providing oral health care, preventative or otherwise, in a school setting can be huge for a child living in poverty and unable to receive oral health care. According to the CDC, (1) children in low-income families are twice as likely to have cavities; and (2) children with poor oral health often miss more school and have lower grades than children without cavities.

As a mom with MaineCare, there are very few places I am able to take my child for dental care who will accept our insurance, and the places that do have a long wait list for appointments. I do not have the money to pay out of pocket to get my child oral health care, so having school-based oral health care would be a big relief for myself and my family.

Thank you for your consideration.

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/npao/oralhealth.htm#:~:text=Poorest%20oral%20health%20can%20have%20a%20detrimental%20effect.helping%20them%20stay%20healthy%20and%20ready%20to%20learn.>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/basics/childrens-oral-health/index.html>