



Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Lorraine Klug and I am a Registered Dental Hygienist, Immediate Past President of the Maine Dental Hygienists' Association and Legislative chair of MDHA. I reside in Ellsworth and wish to offer my support for LD 1201 An Act to Increase Oral Health Services.

I personally have been a dental hygienist for 27 years and have worked under Public Health Supervision in the past in some of my local schools. I saw a great need for dental care in those schools and it all starts with prevention. Imagine if every student in Maine had access to preventative oral health care and education. The biggest difference I saw in providing services in schools was that the students weren't apprehensive at all even for their first visit. The school is such a different setting than the traditional dental office and it wasn't so scary for them. The biggest advantage was that they were already at school and you didn't have to depend on the parent to get them to their appointment. That is something we struggle with in private practice.

We need to make these services available to every child in Maine and what better way than at school. The Oral Health Program is vital to facilitate these services but they need more than one staff member to do the job.

Please offer your support to LD 1201 for better oral health for our Maine children. They deserve better!