



Testimony of the Maine Dental Association  
Before the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee

Testimony in Support

**LD 2040 An Act to Restore the Board of Dental Practice's Authority to Issue Letters of Guidance**

Public Hearing: Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and Distinguished Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee:

My name is Angie Bellefleur and I serve as Deputy Director of the Maine Dental Association. The MDA is a statewide association dedicated to advancing excellence in dentistry.

The MDA represents 85% of the dentists in Maine; there are approximately 775 practicing and retired dentists who are active members of the association.

On behalf of the Maine Dental Association, I am respectfully providing testimony in support of ***LD 2040 An Act to Restore the Board of Dental Practice's Authority to Issue Letters of Guidance.***

As the title and language imply, LD 2040 restores a critical element of the Board's responsibility to its members and to the public – *to educate, reinforce knowledge regarding legal or professional obligations and express concern over action or inaction by the licensee or registrant.* Letters of Guidance allow the Board a valuable option in helping educate licensees on how to correct a minor infraction rather than either completely dismissing the case or instituting formal discipline; these cases are best served by more education with an opportunity to correct the issue. If another issue, same or different, for the same licensee comes to the Board's attention in the future, the Board will take this Letter of Guidance into consideration in its deliberations of the new case.

Letters of guidance serve a significant purpose to the Board, to dental professionals and to the public. The Maine Dental Association urges the Committee to vote to pass LD 2040.

Thank you for your time and attention.

