

Jenna Powell  
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LD 1615

As a registered dental hygienist licensed in both Maine and Massachusetts, with over a decade of experience in the pediatric field, I have witnessed the level of care that patients, including pediatric patients, rightfully deserve. My extensive work in various pediatric offices, where assisted hygiene is commonplace, has reinforced my strong belief that most dental assistants lack the necessary clinical, pre-diagnostic, and patient education skills to treat patients independently. While dental assistants play a critical and invaluable role in our field, their very title signifies that they are to assist, not serve as the sole providers of care. Allowing them to take on this responsibility undermines the rigorous training and expertise that dental hygienists possess, which would ultimately lead to a significant decline in the standard of care within our profession. It is imperative that dental assistants are not permitted to perform dental cleanings independently in the pediatric field or any other area. I strongly urge you to oppose bill LD1615.