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Dear Members of the Joint Health Coverage, Insurance, and  
Financial Services Committee,

As a practicing registered/licensed dental hygienist, I urge you  
to vote ought not to pass on LD 1615: To An Act to Expand  
Access to Oral Health Care by Creating a New Path for  
Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry.

As a registered/licensed dental hygienist, it is my  
responsibility to advocate for safe, accessible, affordable, and  
equitable dental care. This bill does not achieve any of those  
standards, and I fully oppose it.

Having a dentist trained outside the United States and  
seeking to practice in the United States already has a

pathway for licensure. It involves the dentist attending an advanced standing program, which requires them to graduate from an accredited dental program from the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The dentist must pass the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE). The dentist must then get a license to practice in the state.

Having dentists who are trained outside the United States not complete the above pathway will lead to compromised care and a lack of competency standards. The people of Maine do not deserve to have substandard care from dentists who are trained outside the United States and who are not required to take any advanced standing program or even graduate from an accredited overseas program.

I implore you to vote ought not to pass on LD 1615 to protect the dental patients in Maine.

Thank you,

Wesley Danforth

Vice President of the Maine Dental Hygienists' Association



Wesley Danforth  
MDHA  
LD 1615

See my letter for public record.

Thank you,  
Wes Danforth RDH