

April 29, 2025

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

My name is David Kerr. I am a dentist and have practiced general dentistry for over 40 years. Over the years I have been involved in the issue of access to dental care. This is not just a dental access problem it is a global health access issue. I fully support access to care but solving it by allowing lesser trained dentists to provide care creates a two-tiered system. Also, in a study done a number of years ago of which Farmington Maine was a site, even when care was free other issues such as car rides, babysitters, time off from work was the major factor in preventing getting care.

Being a good general practitioner takes a broad and deep knowledge of many disciplines and currently we have good standards of training in place to provide and test this knowledge. Dentistry is not drill, fill and bill profession. It requires thinking, problem solving skills, excellent dexterity and putting together many complex pieces from many disciplines.

For these reasons I oppose LD1615.

Sincerely,

David R. Kerr, D.D.S.