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Testimony of Representative Sean Faircloth supporting

**LD 1615, An Act to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Creating
a New Path for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and distinguished members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name is Sean Faircloth, and I have the honor of representing House District 24, which includes Veazie, part of Orono, part of Bangor and part of Brewer. I am proud to enthusiastically support **LD 1615, An Act to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Creating a New Path for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry**.

I urge the committee to also support LD 1615, which aims to expand access to oral health care by creating a new path for obtaining a license to practice dentistry. Penobscot Community Health Care (PCHC), with its comprehensive network of services, plays a vital role in my community's health and well-being. This legislation will enhance PCHC's ability to address the growing demand for dental care, ensuring that more Mainers receive the essential services they need.

This bill would create a safe, structured pathway for dental professionals currently blocked from practicing in Maine. These dentists will be required to pass all required board examinations, practice under the general supervision of a licensed dentist and work within a board-approved practice setting under a written practice agreement.

The dentist shortage in Maine is at a crisis point. This is a common sense solution to allow qualified dental professionals to provide this much needed care in Maine instead of losing them to other states.

Thank you for considering this important initiative.

