

By Electronic Mail Only

May 5, 2025

Joint Standing Committee On Education and Cultural Affairs  
c/o Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 1891

Senator Rafferty, Representative Noonan Murphy and members of the Committee, I am Brian Duffy, Vice President and General Counsel at Delta Dental Plan of Maine d/b/a Northeast Delta Dental (“Delta Dental”). As Maine’s largest dental benefits administrator, Delta Dental administers dental benefits for over 350,000 Mainers and contracts with a network of over 650 dentists, 72 independent practice dental hygienists (IPDHs), and 12 denturists. Delta Dental strongly supports LD 1891.

At Delta Dental, our mission is to advance the dental health and overall wellness of our customers and the communities we serve. We invest hundreds of thousands of dollars annually into oral health clinics, school-based oral health programs, and other oral health initiatives to break down barriers faced by underserved (uninsured and underinsured) people in our state with otherwise unmet oral health needs.

We recognize that a robust and well distributed dental workforce is essential to carrying out this mission. Accordingly, we were a founding donor to establish the University of New England’s dental school – the only dental in northern New England – and we have funded the University of Maine at Augusta Delta Dental Oral Health Center, which will allow for an increased number of dental assisting and expanded functions dental assisting students at University of Southern Maine’s Lewiston-Auburn Campus. We also fund scholarships and loan repayment programs for dentists and hygienists who practice in underserved areas or treat underserved populations, often in conjunction with the Finance Authority of Maine.

Despite these investments in the Maine oral health workforce, very real discrepancies remain. Not every Mainer has access to appropriate dental care. LD 1891 takes important steps towards addressing these discrepancies.

For the foregoing reasons, Delta Dental asks that this Committee vote that LD 1891 ought to pass.

Sincerely,

\\s\ Brian Duffy

Brian Duffy, Esq.

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**Brian Duffy, Esq.**  
**Vice President and General Counsel**  
Northeast Delta Dental  
One Delta Drive  
PO Box 2002  
Concord, NH 03302-2002

Telephone: 603-223-1202  
Fax: 603-223-1035  
Email: bduffy@nedelta.com

