

Testimony in Support of LD 1800

Submitted by Adam Saltz, DMD, MS, MPH

Chairpersons and Members of the Committee:

My name is Adam Saltz. I am a board-certified periodontist practicing in South Portland, Maine. I currently serve as President of the Maine Dental Association and Vice Chair-Elect to the American Dental Association's New Dentist Committee. I thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of LD 1800.

This bill addresses an unfair and growing practice among some dental insurers that require dentists to adhere to capped fees for services that are not even covered by the patient's plan. In other words, dental plans are dictating prices for procedures they refuse to pay for. This practice undermines the provider-patient relationship and threatens the financial viability of dental practices across our state, particularly those in rural or underserved areas.

When an insurer attempts to set fees for services it does not cover, it interferes not only with the clinical autonomy of the provider but also with the transparency we owe to our patients. Patients should know when their insurance covers a procedure and when it does not. They should also understand that services not covered by their plan are not subject to price controls by the insurer. This bill ensures that fees for non-covered services are established fairly, through mutual understanding between the patient and the provider, rather than dictated unilaterally by third parties with no clinical role in care delivery.

Moreover, LD 1800 strengthens patient protection by reinforcing the distinction between covered and non-covered services. It also upholds professional integrity by preventing outside entities from coercing providers into financial arrangements that compromise the sustainability of quality dental care.

I urge the Committee to support this bill and help restore a more balanced, ethical framework for dental care delivery in Maine. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Saltz', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Adam Saltz, DMD, MS, MPH
President, Maine Dental Association