



# MAINE DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Testimony of the Maine Dental Association  
before the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee

## Neither For Nor Against

### **LD 1854 An Act to Require the Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure, Board of Dental Practice, Board of Speech, Audiology and Hearing and Board of Occupational Therapy Practice to Obtain Fingerprintbased Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Background Checks for Initial Applicants and Licensees Seeking Compact Privileges**

Public Hearing: Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and Distinguished Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

I am Therese Cahill, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Maine Dental Association. The MDA represents all dentists in Maine and is a statewide association dedicated to promoting oral health, advancing excellence in dentistry, and building a future that empowers Maine's communities with sustainable access to oral healthcare.

On behalf of the Maine Dental Association, I am respectfully providing testimony *neither for nor against* LD 1854 *An Act to Require the Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure, Board of Dental Practice, Board of Speech, Audiology and Hearing and Board of Occupational Therapy Practice to Obtain Fingerprintbased Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Background Checks for Initial Applicants and Licensees Seeking Compact Privileges.*

We understand this bill is necessary in order to be compliant with the Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact passed by the 131<sup>st</sup> Maine Legislature. As dental professionals used to be required to complete a criminal background check not that long ago, we understand this type of review of an applicant's background is sometimes required for credentialing.

The Maine Board of Dental Practice has done an extensive amount of work over the past several years, improving and expediting the licensing process immensely. With this testimony, we are expressing our gratitude for this work as well as our concern this legislation will negatively impact the ability for initial applicants for Maine dental or dental hygienist licenses to benefit from those years of progress. Our fragile dental provider network is in part dependent on the Board's ability to process licenses as efficiently as possible. It is our hope this legislation does not impede qualified applicants from getting their licenses as quickly as they now do. We would ask the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to keep this ideal in the forefront as they look to implement this requirement, perhaps looking to similar processes already in place for other professions which require fingerprinting, to ensure the disruption is minimal.

Thank you for your time and attention.