

Testimony in Support of LD 1652: An Act To Provide a Tax Credit for Providers of Dental Care for MaineCare Recipients

Dear State Representatives and Committee members,

My name is Dr. Whitney Wignall, and I am a board-certified pediatric dentist practicing in Portland, Maine. I'm writing today in strong support of **LD 1652**, "An Act To Provide a Tax Credit for Providers of Dental Care for MaineCare Recipients."

As a pediatric dentist, I care for some of Maine's most vulnerable residents—our children. Many of the families I serve rely on MaineCare for their children's healthcare, including dental services. While I am proud to accept MaineCare patients, I can say from firsthand experience that doing so comes with financial and administrative challenges that discourage many dentists, especially in private practice, from participating.

MaineCare reimbursement rates do not cover the full cost of providing high-quality, time-intensive pediatric dental care. This is especially true for children who require behavior guidance, special accommodations, or more extensive treatment due to delayed or interrupted access to care. While my colleagues and I are deeply committed to serving all children, the reality is that many practices are struggling to remain financially sustainable when a significant portion of their patient population is covered by MaineCare.

LD 1652 offers a practical and meaningful solution—a tax credit that helps offset these financial pressures and encourages more providers to open their doors to MaineCare families. This legislation will support the dentists who are already serving MaineCare patients and help recruit others into the system—expanding access, reducing wait times, and improving oral health outcomes across the state.

I urge you to support LD 1652 and vote "Ought to Pass." Thank you for your time, attention, and your commitment to Maine's children.

Sincerely,
Dr. Whitney Wignall, D.M.D.
Southern Maine Pediatric Dentistry
Portland, Maine
207-773-3111