



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

**LD 1972 An Act to Enhance Transparency and Value in Substantial Health Care Transactions
by Changing the Review and Approval Process for Those Transactions**

In OPPOSITION
Public Hearing: Tuesday May 20, 2025

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and Distinguished Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial 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. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

On behalf of the Maine Dental Association, I am respectfully providing testimony *in opposition* of **LD 1972 An Act to Enhance Transparency and Value in Substantial Health Care Transaction by Changing the Review and Approval Process for Those Transactions**.

The MDA supports the Sponsor's objective of increasing transparency in healthcare. While clearly not the focus of this proposal, the complex nature of this legislation may have unintended consequences in the dental world. Already significantly regulated by licensure laws and board statutes, most dental practices in Maine are small businesses, and the majority are a single-site practices. While seemingly the threshold stated in this bill would exclude the sale of these practices, we would caution against that assumption as the not-clearly defined "anticipated revenue", building, land, and equipment in some areas may put these private practices regulated through this bill. There is also growing effort among some dental providers to expand across Maine, particularly to rural areas, as single-practice providers retire and face closing their practices due to the lack of newer dentists moving to rural areas. Multi-practice owners could also certainly find themselves regulated in this way.

Again, we appreciate the concerns which have brought this bill forward late in the legislative session. We'd like to request this bill be carried over to examine the ramifications and unintended consequences more thoroughly, a study group to examine all the stated issues and their solutions more clearly, or the bill to be amended to remove private practitioners all together.

Thank you for your time and attention.