

Lisa Potter
Windham
LD 2030

Testimony in Support of LD 2030

To: Senator Bailey Representative Mathieson, and Distinguished Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services.

From: Lisa Potter IPDH, MS Date: 1/20/2026 Re: LD 2030, An Act to Expand the Scope of Independent Practice Dental Hygienists

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Committee:

My name is Lisa Potter and I am an Independent Practice Dental Hygienist (IPDH) with a Master of Science in Library Media, residing in Windham, ME. I am writing to urge you to support LD 2030.

I have been a dental hygienist for over 20 years. My education included a rigorous, semester-long course in local anesthesia that required a proven demonstration of competence in delivering over 50 successful injections. I have been board-certified to administer local anesthesia since 2008. Yet, under current Maine law, my 16 years of clinical experience and advanced degree are sidelined by a "supervision" requirement that serves as a barrier—not a safety net.

As an IPDH, I am often the only point of care for patients in underserved areas. I have repeatedly been faced with a heartbreaking and clinical "no-win" scenario:

1. Perform a painful, invasive non-surgical periodontal therapy on a patient without anesthesia; or
2. Decline treatment entirely, leaving an active, systemic infection to spread because I do not have the "supervision" of a dentist who is not physically present in my practice.

In a state facing a severe dental provider shortage, forcing a patient to choose between physical pain or chronic infection is unacceptable. We have a trained, ready workforce of IPDHs who are currently being legally restrained from providing the very care they are certified to perform.

Safety is often raised as a concern in scope-of-practice discussions. In addition to my initial certification, I maintain training in medical emergencies, healthcare complications, and pharmacology. We are not asking to perform new procedures; we are asking to use the tools we are already trained and certified to use, in the settings where patients need us most.

LD 2030 is not just a "provider" bill; it is a patient rights bill. It ensures that Maine citizens seeking care from an IPDH are not treated as "second-class patients" who must endure pain to receive life-changing healthcare.

I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2030. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the health of all Maine people. I encourage your follow-up with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

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