



Testimony of Courtney Vannah, IPDH, MS, MPH Coordinator, IPDH Networking Group

LD 2030: An Act to Expand the Scope of Independent Practice Dental Hygienists
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Public Hearing: January 20, 2026

Good afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee. My name is Courtney Vannah, and I am here today on behalf of the Independent Practice Dental Hygiene (IPDH) Networking Group, and we urge you to support LD 2030.

The IPDH Networking Group represents a majority of Maine's practicing IPDHs who practice all over the State- a group that is increasing steadily and becoming the fastest growing provider type for patients with MaineCare coverage while other provider types are declining. Many patients seen by IPDHs have been without care for quite some time due to lack of access, and come to IPDHs with pain, or fear of pain, which increases their anxiety about dental care.

Although many IPDHs have been trained to provide local anesthesia and already hold the local anesthesia practice authority, the current scope language prevents IPDHs from being able to offer this pain reducing service to their patients. For some patients, this means the difference between being able to access the care they desperately need or continuing to go without.

This bill amends the scope of the IPDH to allow local anesthesia to be delivered in their practice setting. A vote in favor of this bill is a vote in favor of increased access to care for patients who have concerns about pain during the procedure. We ask you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2030 to support access to oral healthcare.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions.