

Natalie Saltz
Portland, ME
LD 2030

Dear Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee,
I am writing as a licensed Maine Dental Hygienist to urge you to vote Ought to Pass (OTP) on LD 2030: An Act to Expand the Scope of Practice of Independent Practice Dental Hygienists.

As a practicing hygienist, I strongly support allowing Independent Practice Dental Hygienists to administer local anesthesia to help provide comfort and timely care to patients, especially those living in rural areas of Maine. Many patients currently wait months for periodontal treatment simply because anesthesia services are unavailable, delaying care that is both necessary and preventive in nature. There are limited periodontal practices in Maine and many Mainers do not have the means to travel hours for periodontal cleanings. Allowing IPDHs to provide these services to their full potential could help bridge that gap.

Dental hygienists receive extensive education and clinical training, including multiple courses focused on pain management, pharmacology, anatomy, and patient safety. With appropriate education and certification, hygienists are well prepared to safely administer local anesthesia. Allowing this expanded scope would reduce unnecessary delays, improve patient comfort, and increase access to essential periodontal care across the state.

Please support access to preventive oral healthcare in Maine and vote OTP on LD 2030.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

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