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Brewer  
LD 2123

My name is Terrin Porter, and I am writing in support of LD 2123. I am a Pediatric Dentist and have offices in Brewer Maine and in Augusta Maine

I am asking you to consider the very real consequences of extremely long wait times for dental care. In many parts of the state, patients wait months—or even longer—for routine dental appointments. What begins as a minor issue, such as a small cavity or gum irritation, often worsens significantly during these delays.

Because of long wait times, problems that could have been treated simply and affordably turn into serious dental conditions requiring extractions, root canals, emergency care, or even hospital visits. This not only causes unnecessary pain and suffering for patients, but also leads to higher costs for individuals and for the health care system as a whole.

Delayed dental care can also affect overall health. Infections, abscesses, and untreated oral disease can interfere with eating, working, and daily life, and in some cases contribute to broader medical complications. For children, seniors, and low-income individuals, these delays are especially harmful.

LD 2123 is an important step toward addressing these access issues. By improving availability of timely dental care, we can prevent minor problems from becoming major ones, reduce emergency interventions, and improve health outcomes across our communities.

I urge you to support LD 2123 and take action to reduce dental wait times before preventable problems become crises.

Thank you for your time and consideration.