



**Northern Maine Oral & Facial Surgery, PA
NMOFS Ambulatory Surgical Center, PC**



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Written Testimony of Hailey Caron, RN, ADN
Front Office Manager, Financial Coordinator
On Behalf of Dr. Henry C. Ford, DMD, Owner
Presque Isle, Maine

In Support of LD 2123
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Hailey Caron, and I am a registered nurse at Northern Maine Oral and Facial Surgery, an accredited ambulatory surgical center in Northern Maine that is both Medicaid and Medicare certified. In addition to my role as an RN, I serve as the front office manager and work within our finance department. These combined roles allow me to understand the clinical necessity of anesthesia, the operational demands of a surgical practice, and the direct impact access issues have on the patients and families we serve.

I am writing in strong support of LD 2123. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of our practice owner, Dr. Henry C. Ford, DMD. Unfortunately, Dr. Ford is unable to testify in person or by phone due to being out of the area, but he has reviewed and is in full agreement with the contents of this written testimony.

As an oral and maxillofacial surgical practice, our office is not a general dental office— anesthesia is a required and integral part of almost every procedure we perform. All patients treated in our facility receive anesthesia as part of their surgical care. We serve a large MaineCare patient population from across the state, including many children and patients with complex medical, developmental, or behavioral conditions who require care in a licensed ambulatory surgical center to ensure safety.

From a nursing perspective, anesthesia is medically necessary for these patients and is fundamental to delivering safe surgical care. However, while the cost of providing anesthesia services has continued to rise due to increasing staffing, medication, and operational expenses, MaineCare reimbursement for dental anesthesia services has not kept pace. For practices like ours—where anesthesia is provided for almost every patient—this creates an ongoing and unsustainable gap.





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Raising reimbursement rates for dental anesthesia services would directly support our ability to continue providing surgical care to MaineCare patients. Updated reimbursement would help stabilize access, reduce wait times, and ensure that patients can receive timely care without being delayed due to limited availability of anesthesia-supported surgical services.

I regularly speak with patients and families—including children and adults—who must wait months for surgery while continuing to experience pain or infection, simply because access to anesthesia-based dental care is limited. Improving reimbursement for qualified facilities would help reduce these delays and improve outcomes for MaineCare patients across the state.

We strongly support LD 2123 to increase MaineCare reimbursement for dental anesthesia services provided in Ambulatory Surgical Centers. This change is essential to ensuring that dental providers, including qualified oral and maxillofacial ambulatory surgical practices, can continue to provide safe, timely, and accessible care for MaineCare patients who rely on these critical services.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We respectfully urge the Committee to support LD 2123.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hailey Caron, RN, ADN
Front Office Manager, Financial Coordinator

On behalf of Dr. Henry C. Ford, DMD
Owner
Northern Maine Oral and Facial Surgery Center
Presque Isle, ME

Diplomate, American Board of Oral
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Fellow, American Academy of
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