



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Sean Faircloth in support of

LD 2206, An Act Expanding Access to Oral Health Care by Creating a New Path for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Sean Faircloth, and I represent House District 24, which includes Veazie and parts of Bangor, Brewer and Orono. I am here today to testify in support of **LD 2206, An Act Expanding Access to Oral Health Care by Creating a New Path for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry**.

LD 2206 would establish a new type of dentist licensing, which would allow people who have received dental education that does not achieve the same equivalency to a US doctoral degree in dentistry to practice as an associate dentist.

We have a dental shortage in Maine, so much so that there are doctors treating dental decay themselves.¹ Most children in Maine don't even get a regular dental checkup or cleaning.² As the number of dentists decline throughout the state, so many Mainers are left without adequate dental health coverage.³

This measure would increase the number of practicing dentists throughout the state, as well as providing an opportunity for new Mainers who studied dentistry abroad to still practice within their field upon arriving in the state. While it isn't a complete solution to the lack of dentists in the state, this bill does provide an opportunity to grow the field in a meaningful way, which would help both patients and practitioners.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

¹ <https://themainemonitor.org/doctors-treating-dental-decay/>

² <https://themainemonitor.org/doctors-treating-dental-decay/>

³ <https://themainemonitor.org/doctors-treating-dental-decay/>