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January 9, 2024

***Testimony of Rep. Anne-Marie Mastraccio introducing
LD 2040, An Act to Restore the Board of Dental Practice's Authority to Issue Letters of
Guidance
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services***

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and fellow members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Anne-Marie Mastraccio, Representing House District 142, in the beautiful City of Sanford. I am before you today to present LD 2040, **An Act to Restore the Board of Dental Practice's Authority to Issue Letters of Guidance.**

LD 2040 was submitted as a department bill by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation on behalf of the Board of Dental Practice to restore its authority to issue Letters of Guidance in non-disciplinary matters. The Board's authority was inadvertently removed in statute last session when the Board transitioned from an "affiliated" board and into the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, an umbrella agency that supports 37 other licensing boards and programs as part of the biennial budget bill that went into effect June 29, 2023. (See P.L. 2023, c. 17, Pt. P)

While this is a technical amendment, it is important to emphasize the Board's historic reliance in issuing Letters of Guidance as a regulatory tool to educate and reinforce ethical and competent practice without having to docket formal complaints. The department will follow with testimony that will provide more detail regarding the use of letters of guidance outside of the complaint process, and the necessity for the emergency preamble to avoid delays in its processes.

I'm happy to answer any questions but will defer to the department's representative here today who might better assist the committee as you consider this bill.