

Cayford, Edna

From: Darcy McLaughlin <dmclaughlin@aae.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 10:36 AM
To: Darcy McLaughlin
Cc: Catherine French
Subject: AAE Letter of Support - LD 2137 - Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact - Today's Hearing
Attachments: AAE Letter of Support - LD 2137 - Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact - Today's Hearing.pdf

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Dear Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services:

On behalf of the American Association of Endodontists, please find attached a letter of support for LD 2137, regarding the ratification of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. The Committee is scheduled to consider this bill during today's public hearing, and we would greatly appreciate your support of the measure.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Catherine French, AAE's Assistant Executive Director for Advocacy and Professional Relations, at cfrench@aae.org or (312) 872-0474.

Darcy

Darcy McLaughlin
Advocacy Manager
dmclaughlin@aae.org | 312-872-0462

180 N Stetson Ave., Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60601-6710

Tel: 800-872-3636 | Fax: 866-451-9020





american association of
endodontists

180 N. Stetson Avenue
Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60601

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Donna Bailey
Chair, Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and
Financial Services
100 State House Station
August, ME 04333-0100

The Honorable Anne Perry
Chair, Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and
Financial Services
100 State House Station
August, ME 04333-0100

RE: Support of LD 2137 – February 6, 2024, Hearing

Dear Chairs Bailey and Perry:

On behalf of the American Association of Endodontists (AAE), I am writing in support of LD 2137 regarding the ratification of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact in Maine. The AAE is the largest global association of endodontists, representing more than 8,000 members that are committed to delivering the highest standards of oral health care to their patients. Endodontists are dental specialists with distinctive expertise in the diagnosis and management of dental pain. Our specialty extends to preserving patients' natural teeth through root canal therapy and related surgical procedures, thereby contributing to the overall well-being and oral health of individuals under their care.

LD 2137 would ratify the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact in Maine, allowing dentists and dental hygienists licensed in any compact state to practice in another. The Compact facilitates licensure reciprocity among participant states while preserving each state's authority to regulate its own licensure and scope of practice standards. The National Center for Interstate Compacts developed this compact with public partnership with the Department of Defense (DOD), state bodies, dental organizations, and the public to ensure the Compact increased portability and upheld patient safety.

Compact licensure agreements play a vital role in enhancing the distribution of healthcare services in the United States. Currently, forty states and territories have adopted similar healthcare licensure compacts for various providers, including emergency medical technicians, nurses, physicians, physical therapists, and psychologists. In the face of staffing shortages plaguing the dental industry nationwide, the urgency of implementing this Compact cannot be overstated. Its implementation stands as a pivotal measure to ensure that the invaluable skills of dentists and dental hygienists find their way to the underserved areas where they are needed most.

The AAE fully supports LD 2137 and urges the Committee to support the passage of this bipartisan legislation as soon as possible. Please contact Catherine French, AAE's Assistant Executive Director for Advocacy and Professional Relations, at cfrench@aae.org or (312) 872-0474 for additional information.

Sincerely,

Craig Hirschberg, DDS
President, American Association of Endodontists

CC: Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services