



MAINE  
DENTAL  
ASSOCIATION

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Testimony of the Maine Dental Association  
Before the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee

**Neither for Nor Against**

**LD 2137 An Act to Join the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact**

Public Hearing: Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and Distinguished Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee:

My name is Therese Cahill and I serve as Executive Director of the Maine Dental Association. The MDA is a statewide association dedicated to advancing excellence in dentistry.

The MDA represents 75% of the dentists in Maine; there are approximately 775 practicing and retired dentists who are active members of the association.

On behalf of the Maine Dental Association, I am respectfully providing Neither for Nor Against testimony on **LD 2137**.

As a result of the MDA's collaborative relationship with the American Dental Association, our membership is aware of and sufficiently apprised of the **Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact**. The Association's members are further aware that just four states – Washington, Wisconsin, Iowa and Tennessee – have passed Compact legislation. And while legislation is pending in eleven other states, with the exception of Maine, Compact legislation has not been introduced in New England.

For your information, I have included an excerpt from a recent American Dental Association/Health Policy Institute report which shows migration of dentists (2019-2022).<sup>1</sup> Just one New England state, New Hampshire, saw an increase.

Unfortunately, I was unable to find a similar study on hygienists. I was however able to pull current and projected numbers on adequacy from HRSA<sup>2</sup>:

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<sup>1</sup> Migration of Dentists Within the U.S.: 2019-2022.

<sup>2</sup> Workforce Projections (hrsa.gov)

**Maine**

	Dentists	Dental Hygienists
2021	77%	93%
2022	76%	90%
2023	79%	89%
2024	77%	85%
2025	79%	84%

At this point in time, we remain concerned that with enactment of this Legislation, Maine may well begin to see an “outmigration” of both dentists and hygienists. We can’t afford to lose either.

The MDA’s Committee on Government Relations is not prepared to support passage of LD 2137. We believe that Maine people would be better served if legislation of such significance were to come before the Legislature during a First Regular Session allowing sufficient time and resources to thoroughly study the matter.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Table 1: 2019 to 2022 Migration of Dentists within the U.S. - Dentists with all levels of experience

Dentist counts, EOY 2019 and EOY 2022

Dentists who were professionally active in both time periods

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**Among dentists who were professionally active in the U.S. in both 2019 and 2022, 5.6% changed states during that period.**

State	2019 Count	Remained in State	Percent Remained in State	Number Left State	Number Entered State	2022 Count	Net Migration	Net Migration as Percent of 2019 Count
Idaho	892	837	93.8%	55	123	960	68	7.6%
South Dakota	402	375	93.3%	27	56	431	29	7.2%
New Hampshire	757	723	95.5%	34	88	811	54	7.1%
Delaware	400	381	95.3%	19	41	422	22	5.5%
Utah	1,775	1,659	93.5%	116	197	1,856	81	4.6%
Arizona	3,711	3,510	94.6%	201	356	3,866	155	4.2%
Montana	549	513	93.4%	36	58	571	22	4.0%
North Carolina	5,100	4,813	94.4%	287	437	5,250	150	2.9%
Arkansas	1,160	1,105	95.3%	55	86	1,191	31	2.7%
Florida	10,066	9,624	95.6%	442	709	10,333	267	2.7%
Georgia	4,572	4,399	96.2%	173	290	4,689	117	2.6%
Tennessee	2,907	2,732	94.0%	175	248	2,980	73	2.5%
Hawaii	1,027	976	95.0%	51	70	1,046	19	1.9%
Washington	4,832	4,571	94.6%	261	346	4,917	85	1.8%
South Carolina	2,173	2,012	92.6%	161	190	2,202	29	1.3%
New Jersey	6,523	6,249	95.8%	274	355	6,604	81	1.2%
Virginia	4,899	4,555	93.0%	344	395	4,950	51	1.0%
Kansas	1,323	1,235	93.3%	88	99	1,334	11	0.8%
Alabama	1,843	1,757	95.3%	86	99	1,856	13	0.7%
Colorado	3,463	3,156	91.1%	307	329	3,485	22	0.6%
Texas	14,207	13,436	94.6%	771	854	14,290	83	0.6%
North Dakota	362	341	94.2%	21	23	364	2	0.6%
Alaska	527	471	89.4%	56	58	529	2	0.4%
Minnesota	3,008	2,868	95.3%	140	145	3,013	5	0.2%
Maryland	3,926	3,693	94.1%	233	235	3,928	2	0.1%
California	28,125	27,419	97.5%	706	697	28,116	-9	0.0%
Michigan	5,016	4,758	94.9%	258	250	5,008	-8	-0.2%
Oklahoma	1,758	1,639	93.2%	119	111	1,750	-8	-0.5%
Nevada	1,584	1,425	90.0%	159	148	1,573	-11	-0.7%
Wyoming	287	267	93.0%	20	18	285	-2	-0.7%
Oregon	2,577	2,394	92.9%	183	165	2,559	-18	-0.7%
Maine	656	600	91.5%	56	51	651	-5	-0.8%
Connecticut	2,342	2,171	92.7%	171	152	2,323	-19	-0.8%
Indiana	2,891	2,731	94.5%	160	135	2,866	-25	-0.9%
District of Columbia	682	583	85.5%	99	93	676	-6	-0.9%
Nebraska	1,130	1,041	92.1%	89	78	1,119	-11	-1.0%
Wisconsin	3,035	2,846	93.8%	189	155	3,001	-34	-1.1%
Mississippi	1,184	1,123	94.8%	61	46	1,169	-15	-1.3%
West Virginia	779	739	94.9%	40	30	769	-10	-1.3%
Illinois	7,971	7,523	94.4%	448	330	7,853	-118	-1.5%
Vermont	306	275	89.9%	31	26	301	-5	-1.6%
Iowa	1,492	1,379	92.4%	113	88	1,467	-25	-1.7%

