

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, lowa 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). ¹ 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 $HRSA^2$:

¹ Migration of Dentists Within the U.S.: 2019-2022.

² Workforce Projections (hrsa.gov)

<u>Maine</u>		
	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 Return to Table of Contents

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

Idaho	2 375 7 723 0 381 5 1,659 1 3,510 9 513 0 4,813 0 1,105 6 9,624 2 4,399 7 2,732 7 976 2 4,571 3 2,012 3 6,249 9 4,555 3 1,235 3 1,757 3 3,156	93.3% 95.5% 95.3% 93.5% 94.6% 94.6% 95.3% 95.6% 96.2% 94.0% 95.0% 94.6% 92.6% 93.3% 93.3% 95.3%	55 27 34 19 116 201 36 287 55 442 173 175 51 261 161 274 344 88 86 307	123 56 88 41 197 356 58 437 86 709 290 248 70 346 190 355 395 99 99	960 431 811 422 1,856 3,866 571 5,250 1,191 10,333 4,689 2,980 1,046 4,917 2,202 6,604 4,950 1,334 1,856 3,485	68 29 54 22 81 155 22 150 31 267 117 73 19 85 29 81 51 11	7.6% 7.2% 7.1% 5.5% 4.6% 4.2% 4.0% 2.9% 2.7% 2.7% 2.6% 2.5% 1.9% 1.8% 1.3% 1.2% 1.0% 0.8% 0.7% 0.6%
New Hampshire 75 Delaware 40 Utah 1,77 Arizona 3,71 Montana 54 North Carolina 5,10 Arkansas 1,16 Florida 10,06 Georgia 4,57 Tennessee 2,90 Hawaii 1,02 Washington 4,83 South Carolina 2,17 New Jersey 6,52 Virginia 4,89 Kansas 1,32 Alabama 1,84 Colorado 3,46 Texas 14,20 North Dakota 36 Alaska 52 Minnesota 3,00 Maryland 3,92 California 28,12 Michigan 5,01	7 723 0 381 5 1,659 1 3,510 9 513 0 4,813 0 1,105 6 9,624 2 4,399 7 2,732 7 976 2 4,571 3 2,012 3 6,249 9 4,555 3 1,235 3 1,757 3 3,156	95.5% 95.3% 93.5% 94.6% 93.4% 95.3% 95.6% 96.2% 94.0% 95.0% 94.6% 92.6% 93.3% 93.3% 95.3%	34 19 116 201 36 287 55 442 173 175 51 261 161 274 344 88	88 41 197 356 58 437 86 709 290 248 70 346 190 355 395 99	811 422 1,856 3,866 571 5,250 1,191 10,333 4,689 2,980 1,046 4,917 2,202 6,604 4,950 1,334 1,856	54 22 81 155 22 150 31 267 117 73 19 85 29 81 51	7.1% 5.5% 4.6% 4.2% 4.0% 2.9% 2.7% 2.7% 2.6% 2.5% 1.9% 1.8% 1.3% 1.2% 1.0% 0.8% 0.7%
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New Jersey 6,52 Virginia 4,89 Kansas 1,32 Alabama 1,84 Colorado 3,46 Texas 14,20 North Dakota 36 Alaska 52 Minnesota 3,00 Maryland 3,92 California 28,12 Michigan 5,01	3 6,249 9 4,555 3 1,235 3 1,757 3 3,156	95.8% 93.0% 93.3% 95.3% 91.1%	274 344 88 86	355 395 99 99	6,604 4,950 1,334 1,856	81 51 11 13	1.2% 1.0% 0.8% 0.7%
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Minnesota3,00Maryland3,92California28,12Michigan5,01		89.4%	56	58	529	2	0.6%
Maryland3,92California28,12Michigan5,01			140	145	3,013	5	0.4%
California28,12Michigan5,01			233	235	3,928	2	0.2%
Michigan 5,01		97.5%	706	697	28,116	<u>-9</u>	0.1% 0.0%
		94.9%	258	250	5,008	-8	-0.2%
		93.2%	119	111	1,750	-8	-0.5%
Nevada 1,58		90.0%	159	148	1,573	-11	-0.7%
Wyoming 28		93.0%	20	18	285	-2	-0.7%
Oregon 2,57			183	165	2,559	-18	
Maine 65		91.5%	56	51	651	-10	-0.8%
Connecticut 2,34		92.7%	171	152	2,323	-19	-0.8%
Indiana 2,89		94.5%	160	135	2,866	-25	-0.9%
District of Columbia 68			99	93	676	-6	-0.9%
Nebraska 1,13		92.1%	89	78	1,119	-11	-1.0%
Wisconsin 3,03		93.8%	189	155	3,001	-34	-1.1%
Mississippi 1,18		94.8%	61	46	1,169	-15	-1.3%
West Virginia 77		94.9%	40	30	769	-10	-1.3%
Illinois 7,97		94.4%	448	330	7,853	-118	-1.5%
Vermont 30		89.9%	31	26	301	-5	-1.6%
lowa 1,493		92.4%	113	88	1,467	l	-1.7%

Missouri	2,661	2,384	89.6%	277	227	2,611	-50	-1.9%
Rhode Island	514	468	91.1%	46	34	502	-12	-2.3%
Ohio	5,505	5,156	93.7%	349	211	5,367	-138	-2.5%
New York	13,263	12,481	94.1%	782	403	12,884	-379	-2.9%
Kentucky	2,312	2,142	92.6%	170	102	2,244	-68	-2.9%
Pennsylvania	6,874	6,412	93.3%	462	254	6,666	-208	-3.0%
Louisiana	2,004	1,859	92.8%	145	82	1,941	-63	-3.1%
New Mexico	941	824	87.6%	117	84	908	-33	-3.5%
Massachusetts	5,119	4,698	91.8%	421	227	4,925	-194	-3.8%

Total 181,412 181,412

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