



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

**LD 1361 An Act to Require Insurance Coverage for Covered Dental Services Provided
by Licensed Dental Hygienists and to Authorize Licensed Dental Hygienists to Bill
Commercial Dental Insurance**

In Support

Public Hearing: Thursday, April 24, 2025

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

I am Therese Cahill, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Maine Dental Association. The MDA represents all dentists in Maine and is a statewide association dedicated to promoting oral health and advancing excellence in dentistry.

On behalf of the Maine Dental Association, I am respectfully providing testimony *in support* of **LD 1361 An Act to Require Insurance Coverage for Covered Dental Services Provided by Licensed Dental Hygienists and to Authorize Licensed Dental Hygienists to Bill Commercial Dental Insurance.**

In addition to their essential work in dental practices across the State, Maine's dental hygiene community provides services to school children across the state who might otherwise go without necessary care.

Passage of LD 1361 will facilitate the ability of Maine's dental hygienists to bill insurance companies for the critical hygiene services they provide to school children, nursing home residents and homebound individuals throughout Maine, and will further ensure the ongoing success of Maine's school oral health programs.

While we fully support the intent of the bill, we would respectfully request the Committee look at the other relevant statutes in Title 24-A when considering the final version of the bill. The proposed language does not align with the provisions for independent practice dental hygienists, dentists or denturists. Following the guidelines of 24-A MRSA §2847-Q, for example, would provide consistency and parity for all eligible dental providers.

We request that the Committee vote "ought to pass as amended" on LD 1361.

Thank you for your time and attention.