



State of Maine | 132nd Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Testimony of Annick Metoule on behalf of Maine Primary Care Association
April 30, 2025

Supporting:
LD 1615, "An Act to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Creating a New Path for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry"
Sponsored by Representative Rana

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Annick Metoule, Oral Health Program Manager at Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA).

MPCA is a membership organization that represents Maine's Community Health Centers (CHCs), also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Maine's CHCs make up the largest independent primary care network in the state, providing high quality and accessible primary and preventive medical, behavioral, and dental health services for over 200,000 people (1 in 6 Mainers) at more than 100 service delivery sites in all 16 Maine counties.

We support LD 1615 and thank Representative Rana and other co-sponsors for bringing this legislation forward. This bill seeks to create a new path for providers, such as dentists trained outside of the United States, to obtain a license to practice dentistry under the general supervision of a licensed dentist, to help address the workforce shortages that limit Maine residents' access to quality oral health care.

As we know, Maine is experiencing workforce shortages in many health care professions, and dental providers are no exception. Access to dental care in Maine has become increasingly difficult, with many patients facing long waitlists and traveling significant distances to see a provider. With the recent expansion of MaineCare coverage for adult dental patients, the demand for services has grown. Many CHCs, often one of the few providers in their service areas willing to accept MaineCare, have shared that they have waitlists of 100s. Unfortunately, the existing dental workforce is not sufficient to meet this rising need, leaving many without timely access to essential dental care, sometimes resulting in more serious health issues.

We encourage the committee to support LD 1615. This bill will help ease the burden on the workforce by establishing a new category of "adjunct dentist license." This new designation will help streamline the hiring process, address the healthcare workforce shortage, and ensure that Maine residents all receive the quality and accessible care they deserve.

On behalf of Maine's Community Health Centers, thank you for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at ametoule@mepca.org with any follow up questions.

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