



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Anne-Marie Mastraccio presenting

LD 2030, An Act to Expand the Scope of Practice of Independent Practice Dental Hygienists

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and fellow members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Anne-Marie Mastraccio, and I represent House District 142, which includes parts of the City of Sanford and the Village of Springvale. I am before you today to present **LD 2030, An Act to Expand the Scope of Practice of Independent Practice Dental Hygienists**.

An Independent Practice Dental Hygienist (IPDH) is an experienced registered dental hygienist authorized by state law to practice without the supervision, authorization or on-site presence of a dentist. They are licensed preventive oral health professionals who can own their own practices, operate mobile units or work in various community settings to provide care directly to the public.

Their services are often more affordable and flexible, making them a good option for patients without dental insurance. More importantly, they accept dental insurance and MaineCare. They typically perform oral health assessments, cleanings (prophylaxis), oral cancer screenings, fluoride treatments, sealants, dental radiography and periodontal therapy (scaling and root planing). Scaling and root planing can be painful, and some type of pain relief is often necessary to accomplish the treatment fully.

This legislation would allow an independent practice dental hygienist to administer local anesthesia or nitrous oxide analgesia as long as the IPDH has the appropriate licensure authority to do so. They are currently unable to do this without the supervision of a dentist.

I urge your support of LD 1230, allowing IPDH's to practice to their full scope, independently. Thank you for your consideration.