



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

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

In Support

Public Hearing: Tuesday, January 20, 2026

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 2030 An Act to Expand the Scope of Practice of Independent Practice Dental Hygienists.*

Passage of LD 2030 will allow Independent Practice Dental Hygienists (IPDHs) who obtain the appropriate trainings and then licensure authorities to administer local anesthesia and/or nitrous oxide analgesia. Currently, Registered Dental Hygienists (RDHs) with the appropriate licensure authorities are allowed to administer local anesthesia under the general supervision of a dentist and nitrous oxide under the direct supervision of a dentist. As IPDHs have more training than an RDH, the MDA believes an IPDH with the appropriate licensure authorities should also be able to provide this without the direct oversight of a dentist. With that said, as adverse events using including local and nitrous anesthesia are often reported to the Maine Board of Dental Practice, we would encourage all IPDHs utilizing these types of anesthesia to have a collaborative partnership with a dentist upon whom they can call when questions and/or issues arise.

We request that the Committee vote “ought to pass” on LD 2030.

Thank you for your time and attention.