

Committee on Health and Human Services

February 4, 2026

LD 2123 An Act to Improve Dental Care Access for Children by modifying the MaineCare Reimbursement Methodology for the Provision of Anesthesia for Certain Dental Services

Good Afternoon Senator Ingwersen, Rep Meyer and distinguished members of the Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Bonnie Vaughan RDH, IPDH, MEd, MBA. I reside in Cumberland and I'm Executive Director of Kennebec Valley Family Dentistry Center, a nonprofit dental center serving all ages, including more than 80% MC. Our services include diagnostic, preventive, restorative, and extractions services. Our Center, KVFD is located in the Ballard Center, the Old Maine General Hospital on 6 E Chestnut St in Augusta.

One of the major needs we see among our patients is the need for sedation services. We are joining both the MDA & MDHA in supporting LD 2123 as an Emergency for immediate action by the Legislature and the Department Health & Human Services.

Previously KVFD have worked with pediatric dentists who have had hospital privileges at Maine General in Augusta. This was discontinued and moved to the Waterville outpatient clinic, but this still did not solve the problem. Maine General moved to the new located but then reduced the days available for the dental services. Now we might have 1 or 2 dental slots per month. This does not meet our patient needs.

We fully support Dr Dowling DMD 's Maine Dental Surgery Center. And we will look forward to referring more patients to their center.

Operating the AS centers is extremely expensive given the construction costs, the State of Maine Licensing requirements and the staffing with anesthesiologists, sedation licensed dentists and support staff.

The key to maintaining the AS Centers is the MC reimbursement. Maine has very few AS Centers that provide dental care. Increases in MC reimbursement will shorten wait times for services and stabilize the funding for the centers.

Thank you for your time and interested in helping many Maine residents with serve dental disease by supporting LD 2123.

I would be glad to answer any questions and will attend your work session.

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