



Testimony of the Maine Dental Association  
before the Health and Human Services Committee

**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**

In Support

Public Hearing: Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Distinguished Members of the Health and Human 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 enthusiastically providing testimony *in support of 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.*

We know children and patients with special needs across Maine face a much longer wait for treatment requiring operating rooms because the MaineCare anesthesia reimbursement rates are significantly lower than the cost of delivering this care. We now have data showing the State of Maine has seen a 18% increase in the number of actively licensed dentists in Maine in the past few years, from 891 in December 2022 to 1,047 today. We no longer have a shortage of dentists in 13 counties. As you can see and hear in their testimonies, what we do have are dentists, particularly specialists, who are eager to deliver care children with MaineCare. LD 2123 is a step towards allowing them to do just that.

We request that the Committee vote “ought to pass” on LD 2123.

Thank you for your time and attention.