

Cayford, Edna

From: Nancy Foster <nancy.foster@maine.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 6:05 PM
To: Cmte HCIFS
Subject: (ONTP) LD 2206: Vote Ought Not To Pass :An Act Expanding Access to Oral Health Care by Creating a New Path for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Dear Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee,

I'm writing as a licensed Maine Dental Hygienist to urge you to vote **Ought NOT to Pass (ONTP) on LD 2206: An Act Expanding Access to Oral Health Care by Creating a New Path for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry.**

As a dental hygiene professional licensed in Maine for over 25 years, I am committed to expanding access to care in our state. However, creating an "associate license" for internationally trained dentists who have not completed an accredited U.S. dental education pathway is not the solution. I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

A proven pathway already exists here in Maine as Internationally trained dentists already have a clear, established route to practice in Maine through advanced standing programs at accredited U.S. dental schools. These programs ensure all practitioners meet the same clinical and educational benchmarks before treating the public. We have licensed many dentists in Maine using this pathway.

Secondly, creating an "associate" dentist license suggests that one group of Mainers deserves care from fully licensed dentists, while another group can settle for "good enough" care from those who have bypassed standard clinical training.

After 6 years of practicing under the supervision of a Maine dentist, these "associate dentist" licensee types can apply for a full license to practice dentistry- again without having the rigor of training that CODA accredited graduating dentists obtain! The public would not be aware that this licensee did not meet the educational requirements like most dentists in Maine are required to obtain (graduate of a CODA accredited program). I liken

Patient safety and quality of care should never depend on a patient's income or geography.

My opposition is not about where a provider is from- it is about ensuring that the same rigorous education and licensure standards apply to every single person practicing dentistry in our state.

Mainers deserve the peace of mind that comes with knowing their dentist has met the highest national standards. **Please vote ONTP on LD 2206.**

Thank you for your time and your service to our state.

Sincerely,
-Nancy Foster, RDH, EFDA
Maine Licensed Dental Hygienist and Expanded Functions Dental Assistant.