

Cayford, Edna

From: Kathy Sparaga <Kathy.Sparaga@machiasdental.com>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 5:09 PM
To: Cmte HCIFS
Subject: Please Vote Ought NOT To Pass (ONTP) LD 2206: 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.

Creating two standards of care for dentists in the State of Maine is not a solution and not a desirable precedent. This suggests that one group of patients will receive care from fully licensed dentists while others will receive care from dentists who did not meet the same educational standards. Pathways currently exist to ensure that internationally trained dentists can obtain licensure in Maine meeting the same educational standards as nationally trained dentists.

If workforce shortages are the reason that this change in the Dental Practice Act is being proposed, I fear it is a short term (and possibly short-sighted) solution that fails to address the workforce shortage in the long run. Focus should be placed on creating a professional and business environment that makes Maine communities desirable locations to establish a practice, to build a locally owned business, and to raise a family for dentists who have successfully fulfilled and met the current educational and licensing requirements and standards.

We want Maine to be known for its standard of dental excellence, not for lower the requirements to practice dentistry.

Please consider the safety of dental care for all Mainers and vote ONTP on LD 2206.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sparaga
Registered Dental Hygienist
Machias, Maine 04654

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