

Cayford, Edna

From: Kristen C <kristenc131@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 4:16 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

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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 and Dental Educator 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 practicing dental hygienist and dental educator, I do not support allowing internationally trained dentists to practice under an "associate license" because patient safety and quality of care depend on consistent educational preparation, clinical standards, and regulatory accountability. Additionally, the State of Maine already has an established pathway for internationally trained dentists to obtain licensure. Creating an additional, alternative route unnecessarily complicates the regulatory framework while compromising protections intended to safeguard the public. In my role of educating future oral health professionals, I see firsthand the rigor required to meet Commission on Dental Accreditation standards, demonstrate clinical competency, and understand the legal, ethical, and interprofessional expectations unique to our healthcare system. Creating an alternative licensure pathway that bypasses these established benchmarks risks lowering uniform standards of care and undermines public trust in the dental profession and lowers the standard of care to the general public. It is not worth putting Mainer's lives at risk! Expanding access to care should focus on strengthening current sustainable workforce solutions that maintain educational equivalency and protect patients, rather than introducing new licensure models that create uneven preparation and oversight.

For these reasons and the safety of dental care for all Mainers, I respectfully urge you to vote Ought NOT to Pass on LD 2206. Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Sincerely,

Kristen Columbus, MSDH, RDH

Kennebunk, Maine

Registered Dental Hygienist