

Cayford, Edna

From: trisha limeburner <trishalimeburner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 12:22 PM
To: Cmte HCIFS; tdempseyipdh@gmail.com; natalieasaltz@gmail.com
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.

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

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 hygienist who works within a regulated healthcare system, my concern about internationally trained dentists practicing under an "associate license" comes down to patient safety, consistency of standards, and accountability. Dentistry in the U.S. is tightly regulated with specific clinical, infection control, pharmacology, and legal requirements that are unique to each state. While many internationally trained dentists are highly skilled, bypassing full licensure pathways may create gaps in standardized training, malpractice coverage expectations, or scope-of-practice clarity. I believe every provider treating patients should meet the same clinical, educational, and examination benchmarks to ensure uniform standards of care and maintain public trust.

This perspective isn't about where someone was trained — it's about protecting patients and preserving the integrity of the profession. If alternative pathways are created, they should include rigorous competency assessments, supervised transition periods, and clear equivalency standards to ensure safety and fairness for both providers and patients

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

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Trisha Limeburner