

**Cayford, Edna**

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**From:** Diane Blanchette <dianeb@maine.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2026 11:37 AM  
**To:** Cmte HCIFS  
**Subject:** Please Take the time to read my testimony asking you to Vote Ought Not To Pass LD 2206: An Act Expanding Access to Oral Health Care by Creating a New Path for Obtaining a Licensure 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 today as a 48 year licensed Maine Dental Hygienist, a 41 year Maine dental hygiene educator, a 31 year dental hygiene licensing examiner and as a past member of the Maine Board of Dental Practice (1995-2005 Dental Examiners). I know how important it is 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

In my vast experience with dentistry and education, this Act to allow licensure of applicants from countries that are not required to follow the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), standards is tantamount to endorsing, even encouraging, substandard care for our Maine citizens. CODA and licensure testing is a way to standardize the bare minimum of dental skills necessary for safe practice. The State of Maine already has a pathway to enable foreign trained dentists to obtain licensure. The safety of all of Maine's citizens is always the sole concern for the Maine Board of Dental Practice.

In the interest of safety for you, your children, grandchildren and neighbors I challenge all of you, as elected members of the legislature, to vote Ought Not To Pass on LD 2206.

Thank you for your service, time and attention to this concerning LD. Should you have questions or I may be of any assistance as you make your decision please contact me.

Sincerely,

Diane Blanchette, RDH, M.Ed.

Ellsworth, Maine