

Cayford, Edna

From: Amanda Castle <acastle2@une.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 8:27 AM
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

I strongly urge you to vote ONTP on LD 2206 because this is not a solution to our current problem. This proposal will ultimately lead to more distrust from the public towards dental professionals. As much as I strongly support expanding access to oral health care in Maine; I do not believe that creating an alternative pathway to obtain a dental license is a safe or effective solution to the access challenges our states faces.

Dentists are trained to perform procedures that require extensive didactic education and comprehensive clinical training through CODA-accredited programs to ensure consistent competency and patient safety. Maintaining uniform educational and licensure standards is essential to protecting the public.

Creating an alternative licensure pathway risks introducing variability in training and competency expectations. Maine patients deserve assurance that every licensed dentist has met the same rigorous standards. Public trust in our healthcare system depends on that consistency.

Access challenges in Maine are real, especially in rural communities. However, barriers to care have been more closely tied to workforce distribution, reimbursement rates, and practice sustainability — particularly MaineCare reimbursement — rather than a shortage of licensure pathways. Without addressing these root causes, altering licensure requirements is unlikely to meaningfully improve access to care for Mainers.

Expanding access to care and maintaining patient safety are not mutually exclusive goals. Please consider the safety of dental care for all Mainers and vote ONTP on LD 2206.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,
Amanda Castle
Biddeford ME
Dental Hygienist

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