



**MAINE  
DENTAL  
ASSOCIATION**

Testimony of the Maine Dental Association  
before the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee

**In Support of**

**LD 2209 Resolve, to Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to Develop Innovative Models for the Delivery of Dental Services to Expand Access to Oral Health Care Throughout the State**

Public Hearing: Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and Distinguished Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee:

I am Therese Cahill, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Maine Dental Association. The MDA represents all dentists in Maine and is a statewide association dedicated to uniting Maine's dental community for professional excellence and statewide oral health. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

The MDA is in full support of this bill which provides a thoughtful approach to improving access to dental care. The development of a hub-spoke model to further expand access to dental care for people throughout the State, made in consultation with stakeholders named in the bill, would be great for the people of Maine. We believe it would be helpful to include two other groups in this discussion: in addition to representation from the FQHCs, representation from clinicians providing dental care to underserved populations outside of the FQHC setting would be very helpful. This could include a seat for someone representing the Maine Oral Health Centers Alliance (MOCHA), a group of non-profit providers who care for the underserved and high-need populations, as well as a clinician who works in private practice who serves this same population.

We are also in complete support in exploring the option to establish dental specialist residency programs in Maine. This would help the most urgent issue people in Maine are facing, regardless of how their dental care is paid. Specialists are in short supply for anyone requiring this type of care. Currently, Tufts University in Massachusetts and the VA at Togus are currently running successful programs in Maine; we'd like to see an expansion and/or replication of these programs. As dental schools are limited in northern New England, it would be important to ensure any accredited dental school is allowed to participate.

We urge the Committee to support LD 2209.

Thank you for your time and attention.