



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL  
& FINANCIAL REGULATION  
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION



Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Penny Vaillancourt  
Director

Joan F. Cohen  
Commissioner

TESTIMONY OF  
PENNY VAILLANCOURT, DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION  
NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST; OPPOSE IN PART L.D. 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 ”**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**PUBLIC HEARING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 AT 1:00 PM**

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and Members of the Committee, I am Penny Vaillancourt, Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation (“OPOR”). OPOR has 38 licensing boards and programs including the Board of Dental Practice (“Board”). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of OPOR regarding LD 2209.

The Board’s sole purpose is to protect the public health and welfare of Maine citizens. The board carries out this purpose by ensuring that the public is served by competent and honest practitioners and by establishing minimum standards of proficiency in the professions regulated by the board by testing, licensing, regulating and disciplining practitioners of those regulated professions. *See* 32 M.R.S. § 18321

LD 2209 reflects a recommendation reported out by the Commission to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Studying Alternative Pathways for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry (Resolve 2025, Chapter 107) that directs DHHS to consider development of a hub-and-spoke model to expand access to dental services throughout the State and to explore options to establish dental specialist residency programs in the State, especially pediatric, oral surgery, and orthodontics.

Office Location: 76 Northern Avenue, Gardiner, Maine 04345  
Mailing Address: 35 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333  
[www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing](http://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing)

[Phone: (207) 624-8603

TTY: Please Call Maine Relay 711

Fax: (207) 624-8637

The stakeholders identified in the bill include UNE College of Dental Medicine, Maine Public Health Association, Maine Board of Dental Practice, Maine Dental Association and Maine Dental Hygienists' Association.

OPOR is not taking a position on the creation of such a stakeholder process, but it does oppose Section 2 of the bill that identifies the Board of Dental Practice as a stakeholder member. Placing an individual board member in a situation in which they are representing the full Board on discussions of public policy related to the expansion of oral health care practice models is outside the role of a licensing board. Alternatively, OPOR is committed to providing technical information to the stakeholder group if this bill were to move forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for this bill and I would be happy to answer any questions now or at the work session.

