

Beth Jordan
North Berwick
LD 1026

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee.

I am Beth Jordan, RDH , MS from the town/city of North Berwick, ME and I am testifying in support of LD 1026. I support UMaine system commencing a program to educate Dental Therapists because in the State of Maine. We already allow a scope of Practice for this type of professional, but the closest program to earn this education is Minnesota.

The American Dental Association (ADA) has already developed accreditation standards (https://coda.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/coda/files/dental_therapy_standards.pdf?rev=814980f6110140e7ba00659703cc3b3c&hash=81A3585FD5B1B478DA7D99065A9B75DE) So in order to develop the program the university/program director simply has to follow the roadmap set forth by the ADA guidelines. Reimbursement models are already in place, there are no new procedure codes necessary. This should be a very straightforward program and the dental profession and the patients in need of services in Maine will all benefit from the development of this program and this provider as soon as there are new graduates.

For the many reasons we have voted to allow this practitioner to practice in Maine, the patients/public of Maine, nor the dentists themselves, have not been able to benefit from utilizing these skills because there is no one teaching them and it is nearly unfathomable that a person from Maine would move to Minnesota or Alaska to learn these skills. Potentially there may even be students from greater New England and beyond that come to learn at our Maine program considering there are only two other CODA accredited programs in the US (5 programs total).