



Jonathan Shenkin DDS, MPH

Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry

Augusta Pediatric Dentistry

16 Industrial Drive Augusta, Maine 04330

Tel: 207-622-0303 Fax: 207-622-0337 www.babi2th.com

Testimony in Support of Amendment to LD 1-An Act to Establish the
COVID-19 Patient Bill of Rights

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and Members of the Health Care, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee:

My name is Jonathan Shenkin, and I am a pediatric dentist in Augusta Maine. I am a former President of the Maine Dental Association and former Vice President of the American Dental Association. I am also on faculty in Health Policy, Health Services Research and Pediatric Dentistry at the Boston University School of Dental Medicine.

I am writing in support of LD-1, specifically Part D that would allow the delegation of authority to administer COVID-19 vaccines.

While I would prefer that Maine follows the pathway of the state of Oregon, which permits dentists to vaccinate independently, I support LD 1 in order to move Maine in the right direction and provide Maine dentists with the opportunity to serve their communities in offering vaccines. Dentists are well poised to take on this role, since we spend our careers providing injections on a daily basis.

Thus far, 20 states have authorized dentists to administer COVID-19 vaccines. A recent poll found that 2/3rds of the public feels comfortable with the idea of getting a vaccine at their dentist's office. As the demand for vaccination, and potentially boosters, increases, dentists can assist in serving the public health needs of our communities.