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**Testimony in Support**  
**LD 665, An Act to Promote Better Dental Care for cancer Survivors**

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

My name is Angela Westhoff and I serve as the Executive Director of the Maine Dental Association. The MDA is a statewide association dedicated to advancing excellence in dentistry.

The MDA represents 85% of the dentists in Maine; there are 774 practicing and retired dentists who are active members of the association.

On behalf of the MDA, I am providing testimony in support of LD 665.

MDA member dentists wholeheartedly support passage of LD 665. You have heard Dr. Becca Berry's testimony and read the testimony submitted by several other MDA member dentists. Certain cancers and the treatments that save lives can and do cause incredible, and oftentimes irreversible, damage to the oral cavity.

We recognize that the costs to implement this measure are prohibitive. But are we willing to accept that unless one has sufficient personal resources, survivors of certain cancers may never again feel comfortable sharing a meal with family or friends, all the while experiencing irreversible salivary gland degradation, decay and ultimately tooth extraction?

LD 665 would require a health plan to include medically necessary dental procedures that are the direct or indirect result of cancer treatment. We fully support LD 665.

Thank you for your time and attention.