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

At the public hearing for **LD 1329, An Act to Increase Transparency in Dental Billing**, the Maine Dental Association was asked to survey its members with regards to dental offices charging a fee for personal protective equipment (PPE).

The MDA conducted an on-line survey to gather data from members. The MDA has 774 members with approximately 545 of those members actively practicing. A total of 156 responses were collected, which represents a response rate of 28.6% for active members.

Two questions were asked:

Q1: When dental practices first reopened after the COVID-19 related closure, did your office charge a PPE fee to patients? Out of 156 respondents, a total of 11 or (10.9%) responded yes that they did charge a PPE fee to patients when they reopened. A total of 139 dentists responded no (89.1%).

Q2: Are you currently charging a PPE fee to patients? Out of 156 respondents, a total of 6 responded yes that they were charging a PPE fee (3.85%). The vast majority 96.15% responded no, they were not charging a PPE fee (150 out of 156 respondents).

The MDA is pleased to answer any questions or provide additional information for your work session.

Sincerely,

Angela Cole Westhoff
Executive Director