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Testimony in Opposition to LD 1349, An Act To Increase Transparency in Dental Billing

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

My name is David Kerr. I am a general dentist in Portland Maine

I am writing in opposition to LD1349, An Act to Increase Transparency in Dental Billing.

While the wording of the bill seems straight forward enough, in actuality being able to provide those figures is difficult. As dental practitioners, we were required to obtain our own PPE. Dr, Shah in January, was mentioning how they had given out to institutions 3 million pieces of PPE.

I did a rough calculation and dental offices on their own had to come up with more much more than 3 million pieces. All while sourcing it themselves. PPE has always been part of infection control, which is why I believe we see the very low rate of infection in dental offices.

However, sourcing this supply is a daily challenge. Boxes of gloves which were \$4.25 a box can soar to over \$50 a box in days. Prices and sources are always changing. To be required to provide advance notice of charges for a procedure, equipment, materials or other measures necessary to protect health and safety of patients and staff during a public health emergency outbreak is not operationally possible. We do not have the systems or personnel to support real time inventory expense control and associated costs. If anything, the fees being charged lag by months of the true cost of providing PPE etc. My supplies have gone up over 30 to 40% at least.

I therefore oppose LD1349. While I understand the desire to be able to have treatment costs before hand it is not operationally realistic.

Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any question.

Sincerely,


David R. Kerr, D.D.S., M..B.A.