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Testimony of the Maine Dental Association
Before the Health Care, Insurance and Services Committee

In Opposition To

LD 1457, An Act To Improve Access to Dental Hygiene by Authorizing Dental Hygienists to Perform Dental Hygiene Diagnosis

Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 27th at 10:00 AM

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and Distinguished 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 Maine Dental Association, I am providing testimony in opposition to **LD 1457 An Act To Improve Access to Dental Hygiene by Authorizing Dental Hygienists to Perform Dental Hygiene Diagnosis.**

While we appreciate the sponsor's clarifying amendment, without additional information and collaborative discussion on dental hygiene diagnosis we cannot support this bill. In researching LD 1457, we find only 2 states – Colorado and Oregon – where dental hygiene diagnosis is found in statute.

Over the last several years, the Board of Dental Practice has sought input from licensees throughout its extensive stakeholder process. Today we're witnessing some of the results of those efforts. We respectfully request that a similar collaborative effort be undertaken with regard to dental hygiene diagnosis.

Thank you for your time and attention.