

Margaret G. Cook
12 Lakeshore Drive
Winthrop, ME 04364

The Honorable Heather Sanborn
Chair
Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance
and Financial Services
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Cross Building, Room 220
Augusta, ME 04333

The Honorable Denise Tepler
Chair
Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance
and Financial Services
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Cross Building, Room 220
Augusta, ME 04333

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

My name is Margaret Cook. I have been a resident of Winthrop, Maine for 48 years. I retired from teaching Latin and French at Winthrop High School in 2016 after 43 years, and then went on to serve on the Winthrop School Committee for three years. I am offering testimony in support of LD 1629 in the belief that it will close a loophole in the existing law regarding medical licensure for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Passage of this bill will allow highly qualified professionals to practice in Maine instead of being forced to go to any of the other 49 states which do allow for medical licensure in this situation.

I believe that this bill will provide a great benefit to the citizens of Maine. As you are most likely well aware, every year bright and talented Maine students go to college, either here or away, and very often they do not choose to stay or return to Maine for their professions. That is their choice. However, when a highly qualified medical professional who has met all the requirements for licensure and wants very badly to return to his home state to help its residents is unable to do so, something needs to change. This bill will rectify a situation in which the language of the current statutes prevents an oral surgeon with 14 years of post high school training from licensure in this state - the only state in which this situation occurs.

I am writing on behalf of a particular young man, Kristopher Cooper, but I strongly believe that there will be others who would benefit from the passage of LD 1629. I had the great pleasure to be Kris's teacher in Latin I, II, III and IV at Winthrop High School. He was an outstanding student whose desire to learn and whose disciplined work habits made my job rewarding every day. I would be very disappointed if Kris had to decide not to return to Maine with his young family because of a seeming oversight in the existing statutes. I strongly urge you to support LD 1629 so that Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons from all programs will be able to practice in Maine, thereby increasing the availability of services to Maine residents.

Margaret G. Cook
Latin and French teacher (retired)
Winthrop, Maine

