

April 20, 2021

Legislative Council
Legislative Council Chamber, Room 334
State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

To Whom It May Concern:

The Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) program at the University of Pittsburgh/UPMC has a strong reputation for world-class training, and for exceptional medical and surgical education. The awarding of Dr. Cooper's medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine occurs during the 4th year of his dual doctoral/residency training is a consequence of the asynchronous nature of the curriculum. The program through UPMC is analogous to the program at Massachusetts General Hospital and is nearly identical in format with the same accrediting body. Many individuals in the great state of Maine from MGH have obtained medical licensure. Dr. Kris Cooper's robust 72 months of post graduate hospital based surgical education meets all requirements for accreditation and is identical to other maxillofacial surgeons in Maine who have attained unrestricted medical licensure.

Dr. Cooper has obtained this training at one of the finest health systems in the country, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and Health System (UPMC). UPMC is a \$24 Billion dollar Integrated Delivery Finance System that represents 40 hospitals and a high level of quaternary care that is amongst the world's best. His surgical training is on par with any in the developed world in this regard. The University of Pittsburgh Department of Oral and Maxillofacial residency graduates have accepted positions in outstanding surgical practices and university attending positions at major medical centers throughout the United States—we are considered one of the finest programs in the country and also associated with premiere medical education that is ranked 5th in NIH funding.

The department provides instruction in full-scope craniomaxillofacial surgery, outpatient anesthesia, oral surgery, craniofacial and dental implants, head and neck pathology, cleft and craniofacial disorders, trauma, and other related disorders. Residents are involved in managing emergency cases at UPMC and work with the attending surgical faculty in the operating rooms of UPMC Presbyterian/Shadyside, Mercy Hospital, and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. During the entire final year of the program, the chief residents devote a full 12 months to the OMFS service, working with an enviable surgical caseload. Residents

are also required to attend the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Grand Rounds, Journal Club, treatment planning conferences, cleft and craniofacial team care, and Trauma Conference.

Specifically, the surgical training is in conjunction with the general surgery department at UPMC and includes rotations as all other ACGME programs do such as the trauma service, intensive care units, critical care, general surgery, anesthesia, and other specialty areas. This is typically more extensive than training done by other surgical subspecialties in medicine when one compares the extensive nature of this 10-year dual degree program with specialty certification. In short, Dr. Cooper and surgeons like him will be providing very high level specialty care to the good citizens of Maine in a way that will make you proud. As an aside, I find Dr. Cooper to be highly ethical and motivated to help his community, besides being uniquely talented. He is a rare find and we have been proud to train him.

I wish to fully and strongly endorse medical licensure for Dr. Kristopher Cooper and those with similar credentials. I would be happy to address any questions or provide additional information as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernard J. Costello". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bernard J. Costello, DMD, MD, FACS
Dean and Thomas W. Braun Endowed Professor
Program Director, Pediatric Craniomaxillofacial Surgery Fellowship
University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine