

Peter Nielsen
Winthrop

Please accept this testimony in favor of LD 1629. As a former town manager for 26 years in Central Maine, I assure you LD1629 addresses at least three important matters I noticed repeatedly during my career: 1) the need for young practitioners of all medical specialties throughout Maine, 2) the observable brain drain of our best students to states with better opportunities, 3) the oft taught maxim that if you don't like the system, get involved and change it.

Dr. Kristopher Cooper trained to be an oral surgeon and a dentist in Pittsburgh for a skill that is not offered in Maine. The school awards a medical degree earlier than others, but its training extends longer than others. LD 1629 corrects and prevents an inadvertent interpretation of competency requirements. You can't find better training than he had.

We need Dr. Cooper and other like him in Maine. Their work will improve the health of Maine people. LD 1629 will encourage him and other top Maine students to return the investment we have all made in them. I admire Dr. Cooper's willingness to get involved in the legislative process and not leave the state.