

Mark Zajkowski  
South Portland

Dear Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and Distinguished Committee Members:

I am Mark Zajkowski, DDS, MD, MBA, FACS, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon who practices in South Portland. I am the current chair of the Board of Dental Practice, but am testifying strictly as a private practice surgeon.

I began practice here immediately in 1999 upon completion of my residency in the Harvard/Mass General program that awards an MD as a part of the residency. I hold both a medical and dental license in both Maine and Massachusetts and perform full scope oral and maxillofacial surgery services in my practice. I have also served as President of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

I wish to clarify some misinformation on testimony presented in opposition to this bill from the BOLIM. Approximately seven years ago, I worked in collaboration with the Maine Medical Association (both Andrew Maclean and Gordon Smith) to place the current language in statute to allow medical licensure in Maine for oral surgeons who completed 24 months of post graduate ACGME training in addition to the remainder of our residency which is accredited by CODA. Since that was placed in statute, two of my partners have qualified for medical licensure and practice alongside me in caring for our entire community. They had no issue in qualifying for licensure. Like me, they did an oral surgery intern year first, then two years of medical school, and then completed both the ACGME and CODA residency portions to completion.

A current applicant for medical licensure who holds the exact same training as ourselves and other members of the oral surgery community (from the same exact program) is now being blocked from obtaining his licensure due to a misinterpretation of current statute. Even worse, this applicant's submission never came before the full medical board, only an administrator. The response to the applicant essentially threatened him with a reportable board action for rejection of licensure if the application was pushed forward. Testimony provided by the BOLIM in stating that a medical degree must be obtained at the same time as a DDS/DMD degree (or from the same school) is completely incorrect and misinformed. NO oral surgery program works in that fashion. We all graduate from dental school first, then a six year residency which includes the MD. There is no requirement that it be the same dental and medical school. I went to UCLA for dental school and then the Harvard Medical/MGH program..

Further testimony that stated a graduate from dental school 20 years ago could then do 2 years of medical school and then be licensed is also incorrect. The very strict and narrow writing of this legislation would only allow licensure to those who have completed exceptionally rigorous training under the same program in sequence...not with any time gap.

This legislation clarifies the intent of the law, and defines a very narrow carve-out for exceptionally qualified individuals who must graduate from a US accredited medical AND dental school, as well as accredited residency time from both ACGME and CODA. In no way, shape or form does passage of LD 1629 dilute the quality of licensure in Maine.

Oral surgeons are the doctors who care for head and neck infections, trauma, tumors, birth defects in our offices and hospitals. We work collegially with plastic surgeons, ear/nose/throat doctors and the medical and dental community. Our care is valuable and needed, as any hospital in Maine can attest. We live and work here, pay taxes here, and give back to our community.

Should this young man be rejected for his medical licensure, I have no doubt that Maine will suffer in having an adequately trained oral surgery workforce, as no oral surgeon who spends so many years training under strict guidelines would bother coming to Maine.

I would be pleased to offer comments and participate in the work session, and believe I could offer valuable information and insight to offer clarity to any questions. I thank you for your consideration and stand prepared as needed.