

February 28, 2024

RE: Testimony in opposition of LD 2174

An Act to Protect Consumers from Predatory Medical Credit Card Providers

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and members of the Committee on Health Coverage,  
Insurance and Financial Services,

My name is Dr. Michelle Mazur-Kary, an Endodontist and Past President of the Maine Dental Association. I am writing testimony today in opposition of LD 2174. Dental offices need as many financial options as possible to offer their patients. Some have private insurance (which does not always cover the entire amount), some pay with regular credit cards, some pay cash, and some prefer to us Care Credit. My office has been offering Care Credit for over 20 years and have never had a complaint. The patient is fully informed of the policy. They get one year to pay for the amount borrowed, interest free. Our dental office covers the interest for one year, so that the patient is able to have their needed dental services. They are well informed that the payments must be paid on time or interest will accrue.


As with any type of loan or credit card application, the patient is responsible for understanding the terms of the loan. We make that clear to them. They actually apply online and have the opportunity and responsibility to know the repayment terms. It is overstating in the title to call it a "predatory" medical credit card. If someone was not responsible and did not follow the payment term, I am sure they would not be in a pleasant position. It is, however, not fair for responsible patients who use this as a means to get their dental treatment done, to be penalized for ones who are not being responsible. If this bill passes, our office (and any office who offers Care Credit at this time) would no longer be able to offer this to their patients.

I am sure most patients who would qualify for Care Credit would not qualify as a charitable entity. So this portion of the bill seems obsolete. They do a credit check, so if the patient did qualify, that means they have a good credit history and have adequate collateral to qualify.

Just to review, passing this bill would eliminate a good way for patients to pay for their needed dental work. Financially responsible patients would not have issues with this medical credit card. For these reasons, I am in opposition to this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Respectfully,

  
Michelle Mazur-Kary DDS, MPH  
Owner/President Central Maine Endodontics, P.A.  
Past President Maine Dental Association