



MERRYMEETING BAY DENTAL SOCIETY

Testimony in Support of LD 47: An Act to Fund the State's Free Health Clinics

Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Chadd Cockrell, DMD. I am a local dentist in Brunswick, Maine, and the current President of the Merrymeeting Bay Dental Society. I am writing in support of LD 47.

We are very fortunate to have Oasis Free Clinics in Brunswick. Oasis provides access to high quality medical and dental services with dignity, confidentiality, respect and equal access at no cost to our uninsured neighbors in need.

The Oasis Dental Clinic opened in 2006 with help from the members of the Merrymeeting Bay Dental Society in donated space at the Jesse Albert Dental Clinic. Since then the clinic has moved to its current location in Brunswick and has grown to provide hundreds of free dental visits a year. Volunteers work alongside dental staff to provide exams, x-rays, fillings, extractions, and dental hygiene services.

Unfortunately, too many of our neighbors go without necessary medical and dental, due to lack of ability to pay. I volunteer my time at the Oasis Dental Clinic, and the Merrymeeting Bay Dental Society continues to support Oasis, because we believe in the work that they do.

I ask that the State of Maine consider joining the Merrymeeting Bay Dental Society by funding the work Oasis and other free clinics do to care for the most vulnerable in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration, and I encourage you to support LD 47.