

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Donna Bailey  
Chair, Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and  
Financial Services  
100 State House Station  
August, ME 04333-0100

The Honorable Anne Perry  
Chair, Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and  
Financial Services  
100 State House Station  
August, ME 04333-0100

**RE: Support of LD 2137 – February 6, 2024, Hearing**

Dear Chairs Bailey and Perry:

On behalf of the American Association of Endodontists (AAE), I am writing in support of LD 2137 regarding the ratification of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact in Maine. The AAE is the largest global association of endodontists, representing more than 8,000 members that are committed to delivering the highest standards of oral health care to their patients. Endodontists are dental specialists with distinctive expertise in the diagnosis and management of dental pain. Our specialty extends to preserving patients' natural teeth through root canal therapy and related surgical procedures, thereby contributing to the overall well-being and oral health of individuals under their care.

LD 2137 would ratify the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact in Maine, allowing dentists and dental hygienists licensed in any compact state to practice in another. The Compact facilitates licensure reciprocity among participant states while preserving each state's authority to regulate its own licensure and scope of practice standards. The National Center for Interstate Compacts developed this compact with public partnership with the Department of Defense (DOD), state bodies, dental organizations, and the public to ensure the Compact increased portability and upheld patient safety.

Compact licensure agreements play a vital role in enhancing the distribution of healthcare services in the United States. Currently, forty states and territories have adopted similar healthcare licensure compacts for various providers, including emergency medical technicians, nurses, physicians, physical therapists, and psychologists. In the face of staffing shortages plaguing the dental industry nationwide, the urgency of implementing this Compact cannot be overstated. Its implementation stands as a pivotal measure to ensure that the invaluable skills of dentists and dental hygienists find their way to the underserved areas where they are needed most.

The AAE fully supports LD 2137 and urges the Committee to support the passage of this bipartisan legislation as soon as possible. Please contact Catherine French, AAE's Assistant Executive Director for Advocacy and Professional Relations, at [cfrench@aae.org](mailto:cfrench@aae.org) or (312) 872-0474 for additional information.

Sincerely,



Craig Hirschberg, DDS  
President, American Association of Endodontists

CC: Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services