



Children's
Oral Health
Network
of Maine

LD 1746: AN ACT TO REDUCE DENTAL DISEASE AND ENSURE ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL PREVENTIVE DENTAL CARE AMONG MAINE CHILDREN

Sponsor: Rep. Lori Gramlich

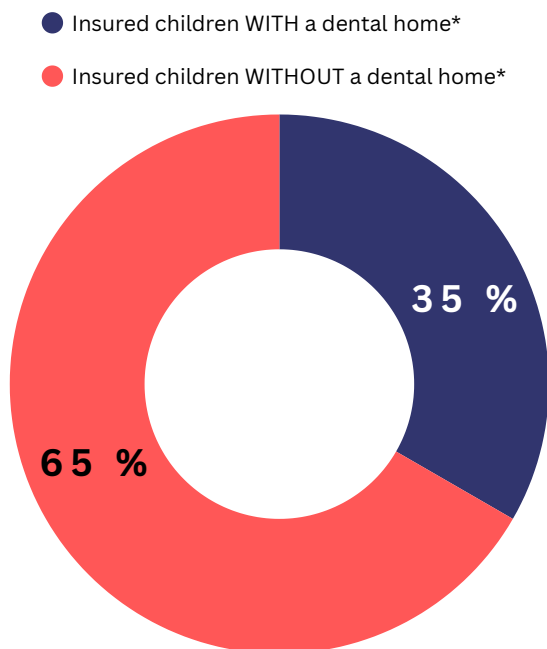


PROBLEM

- Dental disease is the most common chronic disease in children, affecting their overall health, well-being, and school performance.
- Access to dental care remains extremely limited, especially for MaineCare recipients.
- Long-term solutions are underway and in development, but immediate actions are needed to stop disease progression and ease the pressure on Maine's limited dental workforce.

DID YOU KNOW?

Even with insurance, **two out of three** insured Maine children lack routine dental care.



*Dental home = At least one exam and one cleaning in a calendar year.

*Insured = had MaineCare or commercial dental benefits for at least 11 months of the calendar year.

<https://www.maineconh.org/assets/stock/2024-Dental-Home-Utilization-Maine-Children.pdf>

BILL COMPONENTS

1. Empower primary care providers to address dental needs

- Equip primary care providers to apply Silver Diamine Fluoride (a cavity-stopping treatment) and manage basic dental issues by creating capacity through the Maine CDC to provide technical support.
- Primary care providers see children more often than dentists, making them vital in stopping cavities quickly.

2. Support comprehensive mobile dental care in coordination with the CDC School Oral Health Program

- Replicate a successful, enhanced SOHP model integrating local dental providers into schools, offering children more comprehensive services.
- While it can be sustained by insurance reimbursement, this model needs startup funding to be adapted in other counties.

3. Protect Maine CDC's capacity to meet Maine's critical oral health needs

- Makes permanent two limited-period positions to support public oral health services in the state.