

Joseph Kellner  
Windham, ME LifeFlight of Maine  
LD 689

Testimony In Support of LD 689 - An Act to Support the Northern New England  
Poison Center

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint  
Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Joe Kellner, and I serve as the chief executive officer of LifeFlight of  
Maine – Maine’s only critical care transport air ambulance service. LD689 provides  
critical funding to the Northern New England Poison Center (“the Center”).

Managing over 30,000 actual or potential poisonings per year, the Center supports  
fear-stricken parents and caregivers when their child ingests something they aren’t  
supposed to; they support physicians in rural emergency rooms in developing  
treatment plans for toxin-exposed individuals; they support first responders at scenes  
of medical emergencies and give guidance that is crucial in creating the best chance  
of a good outcome.

When contemplating the merits of funding a critical program, it is important to  
evaluate what would happen should funding NOT occur. In this case, it is a very  
direct and simple evaluation – without the Center, at best, treatment outcomes are  
suboptimal and at worst, people die.

LifeFlight of Maine treats and transports over 3,000 patients every year from hospitals  
and accidents scenes across Northern New England. Many of our patients received  
improved treatment thanks to support from this critical resource. LifeFlight  
emphatically urges you to support continued funding for this critical component of  
healthcare infrastructure.

Sincerely,  
Joe Kellner