



**Northern Light
Health**

LD 689 An Act to Support the Northern New England Poison Center

Testimony in Support March 12, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Lisa Harvey-McPherson RN. I am providing testimony today in support of this bill on behalf of Northern Light Health and our member organizations. Northern Light Health member organizations include 10 hospitals located in southern, central, eastern and northern Maine, nursing facilities, air and ground ambulance, behavioral health, addiction treatment, pharmacy, primary and specialty care practices and a state-wide home care and hospice program. Ninety three percent of Maine's population lives in the Northern Light Health service area. Northern Light Health is also proud to be one of Maine's largest employers with more than 10,000 employees statewide.

Northern Light Health hospitals, community providers, emergency departments and walk in care locations rely on the Northern New England Poison Center to diagnose and treat patients presenting with complications from poisoning. Poisoning can lead to a wide range of complications from minor symptoms to short term illness or severe life threatening conditions like organ damage, seizures, coma and even death. The summary below demonstrates the number of patients in our care that have benefited from the poison center expertise.

- Five-year average for all NLH locations– 585 calls per year
- Five-year average for patients treated in the NL EMMC Emergency Department – 230 calls per year

This bill provides \$335,000 per year to fund the Northern New England Poison Center Program. We are in full support of this legislation.

Thank you.

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Northern Light Health

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Eastern Maine Medical Center
Home Care & Hospice
Inland Hospital
Maine Coast Hospital
Mayo Hospital
Mercy Hospital
Northern Light Health Foundation
Northern Light Pharmacy
Sebasticook Valley Hospital