



**LD 581 An Act to Fund the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program**  
**Testimony in Support**  
**March 31, 2025**

Northern Light Health  
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**Northern Light Health**

Acadia Hospital  
A.R. Gould Hospital  
Blue Hill Hospital  
C.A. Dean Hospital  
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

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, my name is Lisa Harvey-McPherson RN. I am submitting testimony on behalf of Northern Light Health and our member organizations in support of this bill. Northern Light Health member organizations include 10 hospitals located in southern, central, eastern and northern Maine, 8 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 member organizations recruit nationally to bring providers to Maine. We compete with organizations and regions of the country where the overall economy supports salaries and employment incentives for which we are challenged to meet. Maine is a beautiful state with access to high quality health care in urban and rural areas. Like many other sectors of our workforce, long term sustainability comes from supporting individuals from Maine or individuals that come to our state with opportunities to advance into professions needed to care for the citizens of Maine.

Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program exists to train primary care physicians, many specializing in rural health care. The residency program also offers medical students the opportunity to practice in rural locations throughout northern and eastern Maine as well as the primary residency site located in Bangor. Our new Psychiatry residency program also seeks to improve healthcare in rural locations particularly in the area of behavioral health.

Many of the participants in both residency programs attended medical school at the University of New England. Many of the primary care physicians also continue to work for Northern Light Health member organizations and some have advanced into physician leadership roles.

While we don't have internal data on the exact number of graduates supported by the Doctor's for Futures Program, we do know that the scholarship program has supported some Northern Light Health EMMC Residency/ UNE graduate primary care physicians that are caring for people in Maine today. We ask for your continued support of the Doctor's for Maine's Future program.

We ask that you support this important legislation.