

LD 2103 Testimony

Dear Senator Ingweson, Representative Meyer and Honorable Members of the Health and Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee on the matter of the prevention of cybersecurity attacks on hospitals. I am a team leader and nurse at CMMC in Lewiston. I worked through the downtime that followed the cybersecurity attack during the summer of 2025. I am writing today in support of LD 2103 AN Act Requiring Hospitals to Adopt Cybersecurity Plans.

As a charge nurse on a busy Labor and Delivery unit, our day to day care was heavily impacted by a cybersecurity attack on our facility. We went about a month without access to patients' records. This left gaps in their health history and impacted the ability of healthcare providers to provide evidence-based, best practice care to our patients. Having no records also can pose a risk to providers if a communicable disease is present and not communicated to the provider.

Without computerized monitoring, nurse to patient ratios were affected. To see a fetal heart rate on a monitor, to ensure a fetus' safety in utero, a nurse had to stay in the patient's room. We lost the ability to provide surveillance of fetal distress in early labor patients without remaining at the bedside 100 % of the time. In turn, this affected how many patients staff could manage. Many patients were diverted to other accepting facilities for ongoing care in non-emergency situations.

Communication throughout different disciplines in the hospital (ie lab and pharmacy) were limited to faxing orders and waiting for them to be verified, signed, and faxed back to the units. This was a barrier to timely treatment, especially when a patient wanted an epidural for pain management in labor.

LD 2103 will require healthcare facilities to have a plan set up in the event of these attacks. While we learned from our experience that you can not anticipate everything needed after a cybersecurity attack, we can have a backup system in place. Everything to prevent an attack must be done to keep our patient population safe. We thought we had all the systems in place that we needed until it happened.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee about this issue, I urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 2103.

Sincerely,
A concerned nurse