



**LD 484 An Act Regarding the Department of Public Safety
Testimony in Support
March 18, 2026**

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and member of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Lisa Harvey-McPherson RN and I am the Vice President of Government Relation for Northern Light Health. I am providing testimony today in support of this bill.

Northern Light Health organizations include 9 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.

The federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA),A created in 1970, regulates substances with abuse potential. However, it failed to address the unique needs of controlled substance use in emergency medical services (EMS) settings. This resulted in confusion and non-standard practices across states and EMS agencies. To address this challenge Congress passed the national Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017 (PPAEMA). Public Law 115-83 amends the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) to allow EMS agencies to obtain DEA registration, store medications at stations/vehicles, and use standing orders for administering, controlled substances (Schedule II-V). It enables proper care without requiring a physician's presence.

This bill is necessary to bring Maine into compliance with the federal law. We strongly support this legislation.

Thank you.

Northern Light Health
Government Relations
43 Whiting Hill Rd.
Brewer, ME 04412

Office 207.973.5578
Main 207.973.7050

Northern Light Health
Acadia Hospital
AR Gould Hospital
Blue Hill Hospital
CA Dean Hospital
Eastern Maine Medical Center
Home Care & Hospice
Maine Coast Hospital
Mayo Hospital
Mercy Hospital
Sebasticook Valley Hospital
Northern Light Health Foundation
Northern Light Medical Transport
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