



**LD 619 An Act to Ensure Coordination of Care for MaineCare Members
Testimony in Support
March 16, 2023**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Mayer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Lisa Harvey-McPherson RN. I am here today providing testimony on behalf of Northern Light Health and our member organizations speaking 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 over 12,000 employees statewide.

I want to thank Representative Madigan for introducing legislation focused on coordination of care for MaineCare beneficiaries. Northern Light Health Care coordination works to facilitate the appropriate and efficient delivery of health care services both within our health care system and with health care services in our regional communities. Care coordination advances the patient's care choices by sharing information and coordinating services to achieve the patient's care goals. Very often the work of care coordination occurs outside of a billable patient service. During the clinical service the health care provider or clinician develops a care plan reflecting the choices of the patient and then the team works to coordinate the plan. This can involve hours of work per patient that is generally not a billable service. But the outcomes achieved benefit the patient and healthcare overall when services are more efficient and avoid patients accessing services at the costliest access point such as an emergency department.

This bill also directs MaineCare to provide other services that are components of coordinated care including transportation, representative payee services, recovery coaches and certified intentional peer support specialist services.

As a coordinated care approach this package of services will support MaineCare beneficiaries to achieve their personal health care goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of this important legislation.

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