



Northern Light Health
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**LD 907 An Act to Meet the Needs of Individuals with Severe Behavioral Health
Diagnoses**

**Testimony in Support
March 29, 2023**

Northern Light Health
Acadia Hospital
A.R. Gould Hospital
Beacon Health
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 Laboratory
Northern Light Pharmacy
Sebasticook Valley Hospital

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and members of the 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.

This bill creates a financial resource to accommodate the unique needs of children and adults with severe behavioral health diagnoses that need investment in a resource to support their ability to successfully stay at home or in a community-based setting. The financial resource can be used to support special staffing needs, physical accommodations or other needs identified by the family or the provider. This flexibility is an important and simple solution to help remove barriers that result in behavioral health patients transitioning into higher levels of facility-based care to meet a staffing need or physical accommodation.

We are in full support of the concepts outlined in this legislation. Thank you.