



**LD 1832 An Act to Require Reimbursement of Fees for Treatment Rendered
by Public and Private Ambulance Services**

**Testimony in Support
May 15, 2023**

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial 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 more than 10,000 employees statewide.

I want to begin by thanking Representative Cyrway for sponsoring this legislation and thank the committee for the time you have spent focusing on the significant challenges ambulances are experiencing throughout the State of Maine. Northern Light Medical Transport provides ambulance services in the greater Bangor region, northern and eastern Maine.

This bill provides consistent payment methodology for situations in which a patient requires an ambulance response but is ultimately treated in place and released. Approximately 30% of 911 responses result in a situation where the patient is not transported to a hospital, and in those circumstances and in most cases, ambulance services receive no reimbursement despite substantial expense.

We believe that it is essential to stabilize the financial challenges ambulances are experiencing. EMS personnel are front line responders serving the people of Maine in every community. This bill is a critical step forward and we ask for your support.

Thank you

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