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Maine Coast Hospital  
Mayo Hospital  
Mercy Hospital  
Northern Light Health Foundation  
Northern Light Pharmacy  
Sebasticook Valley Hospital

**LD 2267 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission  
Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine to Support  
International Medical Graduates in Securing Employment**

**Testimony in Support  
March 19, 2024**

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 the members of the Commission Regarding Foreign Trained Physicians Living in Maine for their excellent work and recommendations to address the important need to find a pathway forward to support foreign trained health care professionals to care for the people of Maine.

Northern Light Health is approached regularly by foreign trained physicians about employment, either as a physician who is not licensed and in need of clinical experience or for entry into one of our residency programs. Many of these individuals have strong ties in our communities, often having a spouse or family member already employed by our health system. Unfortunately, many lack the necessary prerequisites for entry into a residency training program or have not had adequate clinical training within the United States to ensure successful matriculation into a formal education program.

This bill will offer support to complete the necessary pre-requisites to enter residency training or to complete the training necessary to perform in alternative health careers such as physician assistants, nurses or nurse practitioners. Foreign trained physicians will be supported by an assessment of their clinical readiness, access to training at a sponsoring organization or academic program and financial assistance to attend an approved health care program in the state.

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