



INNOVATION FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET

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**Testimony in Support of 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**

March 19, 2024

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. The University of New England submits this testimony in support of LD 2267.

The University of New England is Maine’s only comprehensive health professions university, offering an interprofessional learning experience for students from around the world. UNE’s professional health programs include:

- Clinical Anatomy
- Dental Hygiene
- Dental Medicine
- Health Care Administration
- Nursing
- Nurse Anesthesia
- Nutrition
- Occupational Therapy
- Osteopathic Medicine
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Physician Assistant
- Public Health
- Social Work

UNE is Maine’s leading provider of health professionals with strong ties to the region’s hospitals, clinics, and practice settings. UNE students enjoy access to a robust professional network that supports internships, employment, and lifelong professional learning.

UNE supports the work of the **Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine to Support International Medical Graduates in Securing Employment** and its recommendations. Maine has a health care workforce shortage. Left unaddressed, the shortage will worsen and compromise the overall health and wellbeing of Maine communities.

International medical graduates provide a piece of the solution. These are professionals living in Maine who face a number of challenges that prevent them from fully applying their knowledge and experience in a health care setting. This represents stranded workforce talent at a time when we need to leverage the skill of every health care professional to their highest potential. These international professionals will also help us to diversify our health care workforce. This is an important consideration as Maine’s population continues to grow and diversify.

UNE is prepared to be a partner in this work. In particular, we support two initiatives proposed in this bill: the clinical readiness program and the alternative health care careers program.



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UNE is well-positioned to be the medical school partner of the Maine DOL. We are prepared to help develop and administer a clinical readiness program in collaboration with our healthcare partners throughout Maine. UNE's College of Osteopathic Medicine has experience working with international students and its staff are well-versed in the processes and policies international medical graduates must follow in order to practice in Maine. The relocation of our medical school to the Portland Campus (2025), the expansion of medical faculty and staff, and our vast clinical network positions UNE well to help international medical graduates gain the skills and experiences needed to practice in Maine.

Not all will be able to practice as physicians and will need other professional options in the health care space. We support the creation of an alternative health care careers initiative in partnership with the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. In addition to our College of Osteopathic Medicine, our Portland campus has a wide array of health profession options as previously stated. Our interprofessional model connects all of our health care programs and makes it easy for a student to identify and transition to programs and learning that meet their health care career needs. Now more than ever, we need to make sure that we are doing all that we can to support the talent that lives in Maine today. We need to make sure that professionals are working at their highest level. International medical graduates already come with training and experience that would take a new student many years to acquire.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this bill and for the work of the Commission. UNE stands ready to partner with the State of Maine to address our health care workforce needs.

Thank you,

Jane Carreiro, D.O.  
VP for Health Affairs  
Dean, College of Osteopathic Medicine

Cc:

Ed Cervone  
Director of Partnerships and External Relations

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