



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

LD 209 An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025

Testimony in Support

January 23, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer 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 the supplemental budget.

Northern Light Health member organizations include 10 hospitals located in southern, central, eastern and northern Maine, 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.

Northern Light Health member hospitals provide care to one out of every four Mainer's discharged statewide. Every day we focus on our mission to improve the health of the people and communities we serve. And we are challenged. Fiscal year 2024 was the third year of challenging financial performance for Northern Light Health. The 2024 operating loss totaled \$156 million dollars, creating tremendous fiscal pressure on our organization and the services we provide.

It is with this urgency that I speak in support of the Governor's supplemental budget, specifically the proposal to provide approximately \$118 million dollars in funding to offset the MaineCare shortfall through June 30th 2025. It is critically important that the legislature pass the supplemental budget to allow for emergency implementation. We do not have fiscal tolerance to absorb reduction in payments nor delayed payments for the healthcare services we provide as we work to stabilize our financial performance.

Challenges impacting the health care infrastructure in Maine are far broader than our health system. Hospitals throughout the State are challenged every day with nursing facility patients in acute care beds or behavioral health youth in our emergency

departments for extended lengths of stay in need of discharge to community-based services. Nursing home and behavioral health providers are highly dependent on MaineCare payments and funding disruption to community-based services simply exacerbates the access challenges for patients clinically qualified to be discharged from the hospital. Foundational to our fiscal recovery is the ability to timely discharge patients from our hospitals and allow critically patients in need of our care to be admitted into an acute care bed.

The next phase of government funding will focus on the Governor's biennial budget proposal. During that budget discussion, we will share our concerns on a variety of health care funding proposals and reductions as well as more information on our financial challenges and recovery work. We will consistently ask for your support to do no harm to hospitals and healthcare services in Maine.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the supplemental budget and I close asking that you share our urgency to pass the MaineCare shortfall funding as proposed.

FY 2024 Service Statistics

- 10 hospitals located across Maine
- 1,124 employed physicians and advanced practitioners
- 7 retail pharmacies
- 6 emergency transport members
- 7 nursing homes
- Integrated Electronic Medical Record
- 122,222 emergency room visits
- 30,393 inpatient admissions
- 3,083 deliveries
- 37,487 surgical cases
- 2,455,420 outpatient visits
- 151,836 homecare/hospice visits



Northern Light Health.

Sites of Care

- Hospitals
- Primary Care Practices (■ Rural Health Clinic)
- Specialty Care Practices
- Outpatient sites
- Home Care & Hospice sites
- Long-Term Care sites
- Lab/Retail Pharmacy sites
- Walk-In Care sites
- Work Health locations
- LifeFlight of Maine sites
- ◆ Northern Light Health Home Office
- Interstate 95

