



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
AND  
THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION  
IN SUPPORT OF**

LD 105, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine to Establish a Sponsorship Program for International Medical Graduates

Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services  
Room 220, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine  
Wednesday, February 4, 2025

Good morning, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services. My name is James Jarvis, MD, FAAFP, and I am the President-Elect of the Maine Medical Association and the Director of Clinical Education for Northern Light Health. I am submitting this testimony supporting LD 105 and the February 3rd amendment, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine to Establish a Sponsorship Program for International Medical Graduates.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing over 4,000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

I would like to highlight how happy I was to serve as MMA's representative on this commission. While the Commissioners were diverse in background and expertise, we quickly agreed that quality care of the people of Maine was paramount to any recommendations. With that at the forefront of our discussions, a very well-thought-out plan of recommendations was developed to assist the physicians living in Maine with a limited pathway to licensure. Many of these physicians needed to leave their homeland, not by choice but due to political and social situations at home. We believe the recommendations by the Commission serve to make entry into practice possible but still

uphold core principles of assuring competency by appropriately assessing knowledge skills.

I also want to note that, in deciding how to best provide Maine with quality care, one of the most important parts of medical training for a physician is that the training is rigorous. Rigorous training helps both the physician learner and the patient. In return for their hard work and dedication, the learner gains experience and develop confidence in their abilities. Further, it upholds core principles of assuring competency through an appropriate knowledge assessment. The patient, in turn, receives better healthcare options provided by confident and skilled physicians.

LD 105 provides the mechanism for this alternative medical training to be sufficiently rigorous. These skills are reviewed under clinical competency standards, supported by trained faculty supervision, and made accessible to those physicians who want to further hone their skills toward licensure. We believe that LD 105 is sufficiently rigorous and could help alleviate some of Maine's struggles regarding healthcare availability.

Finally, a couple of amendments. First, to ensure practicality and feasibility, we request that the bill be amended to provide a clearing house for applications rather than having applicants apply directly to institutions. We would be happy to work with this committee on that language. Second, in 32 MRSA §3271(8)(B)(4) (page 2), the following change is needed:

... and evaluate the internationally trained applicant's familiarity with **nonclinical** skills and standards appropriate for the practice of medicine in the State, according to assessment and evaluation criteria developed or approved by the board;

I also want to support this legislation on behalf of Northern Light Health, where I serve as the Director of Medical Education for Eastern Maine Medical Center. Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center is an Accredited Sponsoring Institution for Graduate Medical Education. It has the expertise to assess clinical competency while providing education to practice in the United States medical system. This bill will allow foreign-trained physicians to enter our program, where they can further hone their skills under the supervision of trained faculty while also gaining experience and confidence with a path to licensure.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians and public health communities about LD 105. We urge you to support this bill. I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.

Thank you,

James W. Jarvis, MD, FAAFP  
President-Elect of the Maine Medical Association