



**LD 84 An Act to Improve the Coordination of Health Care for Minors in
State Care
Testimony in Opposition
February 5, 2025**

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 MaineHealth speaking in opposition to this bill. Together our health systems care for the people of Maine providing acute hospitalization, medical and behavioral health care and community-based services.

Our policies allow authorized representatives of a minor to access confidential medical record information as allowed by Maine law. Authorized representatives include parents, legal guardians and other legally recognized representatives. Typically, authorized representatives provide us with proof of their legally recognized status, complete an authorization to release health care information form and, when properly completed, we release confidential medical record information.

It is our position that employees of the Department of Health and Human Services responsible for a child in state custody would be serving in a legally recognized role and would fall under the authorization to release policies we have in place – we would get appropriate evidence of custody status (typically a copy of a judicial order or the like), the form would be completed and medical record information would be released as allowed by Maine law.

We strongly oppose a law that creates a system where parents, guardians and legal representatives follow our policies to complete the necessary steps to access health information for children while state workers have unlimited and unchecked access to HealthInfoNet protected health care information for children in state custody.

If DHHS has experienced barriers in accessing information for children in state custody cared for by Northern Light Health and Maine Health, we ask for specific information so that we can evaluate the case and communicate our understanding that our policies allow us to release information as allowed by Maine law.

Thank you.