

LD 831 An Act Regarding Abandoned Vehicles Due to Involuntary Psychiatric Hospitalization

Testimony in Opposition March 25, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Lisa Harvey-McPherson RN. I am speaking today in opposition to this bill on behalf of Northern Light Health and our member organizations. 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.

Section 5 of this bill — Notification of Involuntary Hospitalization - states that a notice of involuntary hospitalization may be provided in writing by the psychiatric hospital to the Secretary of State. Information regarding an individual hospitalized in a psychiatric hospital is confidential and protected by federal and state laws regarding disclosure. Northern Light Acadia Hospital will not release information regarding involuntary hospitalization to the Secretary of State as outlined in this bill.

We ask that you oppose this bill, but if you do move forward with support, we ask that you amend the bill striking section 5.A – hospital disclosure.

Thank you.

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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