

LD 1001 An Act to Prohibit Medical Providers and Certain Others from Reporting Prescribed Medication-assisted Treatment of Parents to Child Protective Services

Testimony in Opposition March 27, 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.

In January I testified in opposition to LD 156 An Act to Improve Notifications Related to Substance-exposed Infants. Our opposition focused on the need for the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a stakeholder group of healthcare professionals subject to the notice provision. I am pleased to report that the department has set up a series of meetings beginning in April to engage healthcare professionals in the important discussion of notice to the department regarding substance exposed infants. It is our position that notice (or not) of infants born to a mother on medication assisted treatment be added to the stakeholder discussions as LD 156 seeks to address the statutory changes and rules regarding notice to the department regarding substance exposed infants.

We ask for that you oppose this bill given the stakeholder work that will begin soon.

Thank you.

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