



**LD 1084 Resolve, to Alleviate the Behavioral Health Workforce Shortage by Allowing
the Training and Granting of Behavioral Health Certifications by Community-based
Agencies and Hospitals**

April 3, 2025

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Lisa Harvey-McPherson RN. I am here today on behalf of Northern Light Health and our member organizations speaking in opposition to this bill. Northern Light Health member organizations include 10 hospitals located in southern, central, eastern and northern Maine, 8 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 Acadia Hospital provides a variety of training and certification opportunities for our staff. We strongly support the ability of hospitals to create the workforce of the future, and we invest thousands of hours of expertise from our clinical leaders and health care professionals for this purpose. Certification training opportunities at Northern Light Acadia Hospital include components of the mental health and rehabilitation technician certification. We also provide a regular series of clinical education opportunities and other programs that support behavioral health professional development for our staff. We support the language in this bill that allows community-based agencies and hospitals to provide in-house training and to certify their own staff for all levels of mental health rehabilitation technicians, certified residential medication aides and behavioral health professionals.

But we must formally oppose this bill based on the proposal to require the department to terminate 3rd-party contracts to conduct this training and to end the requirement for 3rd-party approval for certifications for those positions. We believe that there should be an external option available for employers to provide employee mandated training. Not all organizations have the resources independently sponsor training programs for current and potential staff. Eliminating external access to training programs would likely result in significant disruption in the availability of a qualified behavioral health workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in opposition to this legislation.

Northern Light Health
Government Relations
43 Whiting Hill Road
Brewer, Maine 04412

Office 207.861.3282
Fax 207.861.3044

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