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LD 721 Resolve, to Support the Full Implementation of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics in the Stat

**Testimony in Support
April 9, 2025**

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

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

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 2021 The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded Community Health and Counseling Services (CHCS) a two-year \$3.2 million grant to implement a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) in Penobscot County. Northern Light Acadia Hospital participates in the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Project as a sub-recipient of the grant for Community Health and Counseling Services.

The clinic project is a new model of care supporting individuals with mental health and substance use disorders. The clinics are required to provide a comprehensive set of services for children and adults including 24/7 crisis services; outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment services; immediate screenings, risk assessments, and diagnoses; and care coordination with emergency rooms, law enforcement, and veteran groups. The CCBHC model provides an integrated model for care delivery to reduce overall health care costs and improve patient outcomes.

As a sub-awardee the goal of the Acadia project is to provide patient navigators to support people waiting on long wait lists to access services. We provide short term support making referrals to treatment providers and assisting with basic needs such as food and heating. Our CCBHC Navigator has supported folks through Acadia Hospital's Behavioral Health Home program, School-Based Therapy program, Addiction Care program, Adult Medication Management and our Inpatient Hospital programs. Some

examples of support include referring a teen to a residential substance use treatment program, supporting a family with accessing the Homeowners Assistance Fund, supporting youth in accessing dental clinics and supporting several folks with MaineCare, Katie Beckett, SSDI and SNAP benefit applications.

The amendment for this resolve states that the funding must support enhancement of the department's special certified community behavioral health clinic funding in a manner that enables the department to access the designated enhanced federal match for the program. The department must continue to engage with certified community behavioral health clinic providers regarding how available funding is best leveraged for the program to achieve full implementation.

We are in full support of this bill.

Thank you.