



**LD 1970 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Consent for HIV Testing and Disclosure
of Related Medical Information for Insurance Purposes**

**Testimony in Support
May 20, 2025**

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and members of the Health Coverage Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name is Lisa Harvey-McPherson RN. I am here today speaking in support of 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 2006 the Centers for Disease Control published "Revised Recommendations for HIV Testing of Adults, Adolescents, and Pregnant Women in Health Care Settings". The report includes recommendations for consent and pretest information. The recommendations state that consent for HIV screening should be incorporated into the patient's general informed consent for medical care on the same basis as are other screening or diagnostic tests; a separate consent form for HIV testing is not recommended. The recommendations also state that patient should be informed that HIV testing will be performed unless they decline and that information for the patient should include an explanation of HIV infection and the meanings of positive and negative test results, and the patient should be offered an opportunity to ask questions and to decline testing. If a patient declines an HIV test the decision should be documented in the medical record. This bill aligns with the national recommendations for HIV testing consent for health care settings.

The bill also provides that disclosure of information in a medical record for the purpose of seeking insurance reimbursement for HIV testing is not precluded, we are in full support of this also.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of this bill.

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