



**Northern Light
Health.**

**Northern Light Health
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**LD 2071 An Act to Expand Access to Vaccines Approved by the United States
Food and Drug Administration by Allowing Pharmacists to Prescribe, Dispense
and Administer Vaccines and Require Insurance Coverage
Testimony in Support
February 10, 2026**

**Northern Light Health
Acadia Hospital
AR Gould Hospital
Blue Hill Hospital
CA Dean Hospital
Eastern Maine Medical Center
Home Care & Hospice
Maine Coast Hospital
Mayo Hospital
Mercy Hospital
Sebasticook Valley Hospital
Northern Light Health Foundation
Northern Light Medical Transport
& Emergency Care
Northern Light Pharmacy
Northern Light Work Health**

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name is Dennis Wood Jr. I am the Director of Pharmacy at Northern Light Health, focused on retail and specialty. I am here today speaking in support of this bill, and the sponsor's proposed amendment, on behalf of Northern Light Health and our member organizations. Northern Light Health member organizations include 9 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 nearly 10,000 employees statewide.

We greatly appreciate the sponsor's work to engage with the provider and pharmacist community when developing the proposed amendment. This legislation has important provisions to allow pharmacists to continue to prescribe and administer vaccines; requires insurance carriers to provide coverage for vaccines; and provides guidance to allow a pharmacy intern to administer a vaccine under a pharmacist's direct supervision. All these provisions remove unnecessary hurdles for our patients to receive vaccines when they wish to receive them.

Of note, this legislation maintains the requirement to electronically submit vaccine information to ImmPact, the state immunization information reporting system, while removing the duplicative and outdated requirement that pharmacists also fax information to the primary care provider that the individual was vaccinated. It has become such an administrative burden to adhere to this requirement, that pharmacists for Northern Light Health have had to make the difficult decision to decrease the number of vaccine clinics that were being provided to the community due to the administrative lift associated with meeting this requirement when the information is already easily accessible in a statewide electronic database.

We thank the sponsor for bringing this bill forward and ask that you support this legislation.

Thank you.