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**LD 2119 An Act to Expand Reimbursement for Treatment in Place, Community  
Paramedicine and Alternate Destination Transport  
Testimony in Support  
February 11, 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 Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Andrea McGraw, Associate Vice President for Emergency Medical Services at Northern Light Health. I am here today speaking in support of this bill, with some recommendations, 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.

Our work in rural communities across the state has shown us that the ability to deliver both treatment in place and community paramedicine is what our patients need and deserve. Treatment in place is necessary for emergency calls and community paramedicine is even more proactive by preventing the need for emergency services whenever possible. Unfortunately, lack of reimbursement impedes our ability to expand these needed services to more patients. We thank the sponsor for bringing legislation forward that looks to address this barrier.

A significant portion of our calls include response and treatment without transport. In CY25, Northern Light had 2,421 calls that resulted in no transport, which is 14.56% of all requests for 911 service.<sup>1</sup> As we are not reimbursed for calls that do not result in transport, we incur the cost of staffing, vehicle maintenance, fuel, and any equipment or medications used on these calls.

Concerning community paramedicine, our team knows that often the best place to provide care for patients in the communities we serve is in the safety of their home. Northern Light has a small community paramedicine team and Northern Light Medical Transport, Northern Light Mayo, and Northern Light C.A. Dean are licensed community paramedicine agencies. Currently, we are only working with Northern Light Home Care & Hospice to deliver these services. If we were able to receive reimbursement, the program could grow and have a greater positive impact on the multiple rural counties we serve. I also want to note that many agencies providing community paramedicine services receive grant funding. This demonstrates the importance of these services to

<sup>1</sup> Data from Maine EMS and Fire Reporting System.

many, but we also believe that critical medical services should not have to rely on potentially inconsistent funding sources to exist.

Finally, we are strongly supportive of Maine taking steps towards reimbursement for alternate destination transport. There have been successful programs built in other states to transport certain stable, low acuity patients to locations other than then a hospital-based Emergency Department. Under current Maine EMS rules and protocols, we are only able to transport to an Emergency Department (excluding interfacility transfers and other non-emergent medical transport). Work needs to be done to establish guidance and define what this would look like for EMS providers in practice. **Our recommendation would be that workgroup be established to allow for robust stakeholder engagement, and sufficient planning and evaluation, in the development of an alternate destination transport program in Maine.**

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. I am happy to answer any questions.

Thank you.