



Northern Light  
Health

**LD 631 An Act To Provide Funding for Maine's Health Insurance Consumer Assistance  
Program**

**Testimony in Support**

**March 16, 2021**

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. My name is Lisa Harvey-McPherson RN and I am here today providing testimony on behalf of Northern Light Health and our member organizations to speak in support of 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 over 12,000 employees statewide.

Northern Light Health has 36 application counselors located in Aroostook, Hancock, Kennebec, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset and Cumberland counties. Our staff routinely work with individuals in our communities needing assistance with insurance coverage. It is important to note that our application counselors serve our communities and services are not restricted to Northern Light Health patients.

Our counselors benefit from trainings and workshops offered by Maine Consumers for Affordable Health Care. The programs support new staff to obtain the necessary skills to assist individuals to apply for MaineCare or seek insurance on the Health Exchange and support our more experienced staff to advance their skills and knowledge to screen and advocate for insurance applicants. Our staff also work collaboratively with Maine Consumers for Affordable Health Care staff in the Consumer Assistance Programs. Together we increase insurance coverage for qualified individuals throughout the State of Maine.

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

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**Northern Light Health**

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A.R. Gould Hospital  
Beacon Health  
Blue Hill Hospital  
C.A. Dean Hospital  
Eastern Maine Medical Center  
Home Care & Hospice  
Inland Hospital  
Maine Coast Hospital  
Mercy Hospital  
Northern Light Health Foundation  
Sebasticook Valley Hospital