



**Northern Light  
Health**

**LD 998 An Act To Amend the Continuing Education Requirement for Pharmacists**

### **Testimony in Support**

**April 1, 2021**

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, my name is Matt Marston, I am the Assistant Vice President of Northern Light Pharmacy and I am here today providing 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, 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.

This bill makes an important improvement to continuing professional pharmacist education by amending the law to require that only pharmacists authorized to administer drugs and immunizations complete at least 2 hours in board approved courses on drug administration. As the profession of pharmacy continues to advance to include many different clinical subspecialties, there are now a growing number of pharmacists that do not regularly provide immunizations in the course of their daily responsibilities and this will allow them to focus their continuing education activities on topics more relevant to their practice.

We fully support the continuing education requirement of immunizing pharmacists to complete education in these fields of study to remain up to date on the latest vaccine related information while allowing for our other non-immunizing pharmacist colleagues to be exempt from this requirement.

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

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#### **Northern Light Health**

Acadia Hospital  
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