



**Northern Light
Health**

**LD 1077 An Act to Fund Consultation Services to Ensure Affordable Health Care for
Maine Residents**

**Testimony in Support
April 4, 2023**

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name Lisa Harvey-McPherson RN. I am providing testimony on behalf of Northern Light Health and our member organizations 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 application counselors located at our hospital locations 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.

Northern Light Health
Government Relations
43 Whiting Hill Road
Brewer, Maine 04412

Office 207.861.3282
Fax 207.861.3044

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
Mayo Hospital
Mercy Hospital
Northern Light Health Foundation
Northern Light Laboratory
Northern Light Pharmacy
Sebasticook Valley Hospital