

**LD 1470 Resolve, Regarding Reimbursement for Providing Inpatient Care to  
Individuals with Acute Mental Health Care Needs**

**Testimony in Support**

**April 27, 2021**

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and members of the Health & Human Services Committee my name is Charlie Therrien and I am the President of Northern Light Health Mercy Hospital. I am submitting testimony for the record in support of this bill. Northern Light Mercy Hospital, an acute care, non-profit hospital in Portland, Maine, is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

We recognize the benefit of expanding the number of inpatient behavioral health beds for patients in Southern Maine who are in need of inpatient treatment. Behavioral Health patients in our emergency room often experience extended stays as we work to transfer patients into inpatient behavioral health beds for care. We anticipate that our behavioral health patients and those in emergency rooms throughout the region will have improved access to care with increased inpatient capacity. This is a good thing for patients in our care.

We also support reasonable MaineCare reimbursement rates for inpatient behavioral health services. This is the intent of the bill before you today and we express our support.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this legislation.