



**Northern Light
Health**

**LD 1624 Resolve, To Create a Stakeholder Group To Identify the Needs of Long-term
Care Family Caregivers**

Testimony in Support

May 3, 2021

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Lisa Harvey-McPherson RN, 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.

I want to thank the Long-Term Care Ombudsman for initiating the request to establish a stakeholder group to identify the needs of long-term care family caregivers. I understand that they have been working with a national model to assess families for their caregiving strengths and conversely needs thus facilitating targeted resources and supports to meet the caregiver needs. Throughout our health system we work families caring for our patients and understand the critical role they have in supporting patients to live at home or in community-based settings. Success at home or in the community reduces the need for emergency room visits and hospitalization when the caregiver burden exceeds the capacity of the family.

I ask that the committee consider two recommendations regarding the stakeholder membership outlined in Section 2 of the Resolve. I ask that you add a representative of hospitals to the group and a representative of home care service providers. The language is silent on hospitals and the home care reference is for a service coordination agency for the recipients of home care services.

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

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Northern Light Health

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Home Care & Hospice
Inland Hospital
Maine Coast Hospital
Mercy Hospital
Northern Light Health Foundation
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