



**Northern Light  
Health**

**LD 612 An Act To Recognize Occupational Licenses and Certifications from Other  
States To Attract New Residents and Businesses to Maine**

**Testimony in Support**

**March 16, 2021**

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, my name is Lisa Harvey-McPherson RN, 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 is currently recruiting to fill 991 available positions. Recruiting for registered nurses is among the most significant need with 232 nurses needed throughout our health system. We are also recruiting for physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, a variety of therapy professionals, pharmacists and behavioral health specialists. We hire individuals from the State of Maine and recruit hundreds of individuals every year from outside of the state to become employed with our health system. Maine's nursing workforce shortage is so significant that we work with international placement firms to recruit and hire nurses from other countries.

We support every creative opportunity to advance recruitment of health professionals into the State of Maine. This bill provides licensing and certification options that will help us address the critical need for health professions employees.

Thank you.

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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