



Lewiston Auburn
METROPOLITAN
CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

TO: Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee
RE: LD 149- An Act to Facilitate Licensure for Credentialed Individuals from Other Jurisdictions

Honorable Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and members of the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee,

My name is Shanna Cox, and I serve as President + CEO of the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. I am providing testimony on behalf of our membership, composed of 700+ employers across Androscoggin County who employ 40,000+ individuals. Our membership includes small businesses, healthcare, financial, and education institutions, the trades, hospitality and more. We are deeply invested in workforce solutions that unlock the growth of our economy and support the success of our members. I write today in support of LD 149, and the flexibility it would allow employers to leverage in their efforts to address their workforce needs.

LD 149 will help to lower barriers to recognizing credentials from other states and countries, and provide needed temporary licensure opportunities for our businesses and institutions. In our region, we have seen an influx of talented and trained individuals with the expertise and experience that is in demand locally. These individuals are working outside their field and experience as they navigate a complex process for transferring their credentials from their country of origination, and employers continue to recruit for positions that remain unfilled.

LD 149 continues to prioritize safety and industry standards while providing discretionary authority on a case-by-case basis that supports the needs of employers and recognizes the experience and expertise of individuals. Maine's workforce shortage is too severe to not employ every option available.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of LD 149, and encourage you to support Maine's employers by supporting the bill.

Thank you for your consideration,
Shanna Cox

President + CEO