



**Northern Light
Health**

**LD 149 An Act To Facilitate Licensure for Credentialed Individuals from Other
Jurisdictions**

Testimony in Support

March 23, 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 implements some of the recommendations of Resolve 2019, chapter 79 directing the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation to form a working group to assess barriers to professional licensure for skilled individuals with foreign credentials and licensees of other states who apply for Maine licensure. Thus, this bill is based on a framework that can lead to successful licensure and subsequent employment for individuals from other jurisdictions, including other states, United States territories, foreign nations and foreign administrative divisions.

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

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Northern Light Health

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Eastern Maine Medical Center
Home Care & Hospice
Inland Hospital
Maine Coast Hospital
Mercy Hospital
Northern Light Health Foundation
Sebasticook Valley Hospital