



**Testimony of Maria Millard Povec, Senior Policy Analyst
In support of LD 149: An Act to Facilitate Licensure for Credentialed Individuals from Other Jurisdictions**

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and members of the IDEA Committee, my name is Maria Millard Povec and I am a Senior Policy Analyst in the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF). GOPIF supports LD149, "An Act to Facilitate Licensure for Credentialed Individuals from Other Jurisdictions" as a way to accelerate Maine's economic recovery and advance recommendations by the Governor's Economic Recovery Committee (ERC).

The ERC's November 24th, 2020 [Sustain and Grow report](#) presents a focused set of transformational recommendations to sustain Maine's people and grow Maine's economy, many of which acknowledge the need to welcome diverse and talented professionals to Maine's workforce.

Allowing the Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation (OPOR) within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation (DPRF) to exercise discretionary authority over licensure applications, as long as the waiver does not reduce the requisite standards of proficiency for the licensed profession or occupation, **will advance the following three ERC recommendations:**

1. Workforce Attraction: Establish Maine as a **premier career, education and lifestyle destination** to attract diverse and talented professionals to relocate and make Maine a place that welcomes diverse groups with respect to race, ethnicity, and other dimensions of human difference
2. Entrepreneurship: Supercharge **high-growth entrepreneurship** while sustaining Maine's vibrant and resilient small business sector by making Maine more welcoming of immigrants, supportive of the success of entrepreneurs who are people of color, Native Americans, and women, and attractive to remote workers
3. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Make Maine a diverse, equitable, and inclusive state where **all Mainers can reach their full potential**.

As the state's Economic Development Strategy makes clear, Maine has more people who are aging out of the workforce and fewer people to replace them. Growing our economy will depend on our ability to attract people to Maine and leverage the talents of current residents, especially our fast-growing immigrant populations. By allowing the Director of OPOR discretion in the licensure process, it will help those who move to Maine with out-of-state or international licenses get to work more quickly.

GOPIF supports the passage of LD 149 because it is a step forward in allowing more licensed Maine people work in their chosen careers and aligns with the recommendations of the Governor's Economic Recovery Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

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