



March 22, 2021

Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development  
Economic Advancement and Business  
Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
Attn: Clerk Jodie Breton

**Re: Support of LD 149**

Dear Chair Curry, Chair Roberts, and Members of the Committee,

I, Thomas Rainey, Executive Director of the Maine Center for Entrepreneurs, support LD 149, An Act to Facilitate Licensure for Credentialed Individuals from Other Jurisdictions.

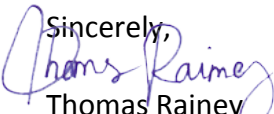
Attracting expertise to the State of Maine is a key element of the State's economic and workforce expansion, as outlined in Maine's Economic Development Strategy. The State must also make full use of the expertise that is already here, and strive to retain this talent.

The Strategy proposes a variety of actions, including engaging workers in continuing education for career advancement (Action A4), increasing labor force participation of existing residents (Action B1), and attracting new workers from beyond Maine's borders (Action B2).

LD 149 advances each of these strategic actions by:

- Granting the Commissioner flexibility to waive documentation requirements for otherwise qualified applicants and waive or reduce licensing fees to reduce financial barriers for qualified applicants.
- Authorizing the Commissioner to grant provisional licenses, allowing trained professionals to practice on a limited basis and under supervision with individualized paths to full licensure.
- Authorizing the Commissioner to accept funding from public and private sources to further the purpose of the statute, and by authorizing the Commissioner to make grants to nongovernmental entities, such as those experienced in working with new Americans, veterans, and other emerging demographics.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass LD 149.

Sincerely,  
  
Thomas Rainey