

MaineHealth

MaineHealth Local Health Systems

Franklin Community
Health Network
LincolnHealth
MaineHealth Care At Home
Maine Behavioral Healthcare
Memorial Hospital
Maine Medical Center
Mid Coast-Parkview Health
NorDx
Pen Bay Medical Center
Southern Maine Health Care
Synernet
Waldo County General Hospital
Western Maine Health

Part of the MaineHealth Family

MaineHealth Accountable
Care Organization

MaineHealth Affiliates

MaineGeneral Health
New England Rehabilitation
Hospital of Portland
St. Mary's Health System

Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth in Support of LD 832, “An Act to Promote Immigrant Workforce Development and Community Integration” Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, I am Sarah Calder, Director of Government Affairs at MaineHealth, and I am here to testify in support of LD 832, “An Act to Promote Immigrant Workforce Development and Community Integration.”

MaineHealth is Maine’s largest integrated non-profit health care system that provides the full continuum of health care services to the residents of eleven counties in Maine and one in New Hampshire. MaineHealth is also the state’s largest private employer with over 23,000 care team members. To address our growing workforce shortage, it is imperative that we look at innovative programs and policy changes that support, attract, and retain individuals new to the State – and keep those that are already here.

MaineHealth recognizes the contribution our immigrant care team members make every day and we are committed to helping them grow within their careers. For example, through our MaineHealth Center for Workforce Development, we partner with the Immigrant Welcome Center of Greater Portland to offer English language acquisition classes to Maine Medical Center (MMC) employees. Additionally, we partner to provide:

- On-site and off-site training (language acquisition, clinical/non-clinical)
- Community referrals for education, and wrap around supports
- Career navigation/counseling

We cannot and do not do this work alone, however, and a statewide plan to assist immigrants with critically important resources like housing, job training, language skills, and transportation is key – and additional resources to support programs already doing this work in the communities is also essential. For those reasons, I urge the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 832. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.