

February 7, 2024

To: Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and the Members of the Health Care, Insurance and Financial Services Committee of the Maine State Legislature

From: Mark C. Mills, VMD, North Deering veterinary Hospital, Portland Maine

The purpose of this letter is to voice my full support for LD 2156, "An Act to Ensure Access to Emergency Treatment for Law Enforcement K9s." To provide some background, I have been a practicing veterinarian for over thirty one years, twenty seven of those years in the state of Maine. During that time I have been privileged to help provide medical care for working dogs from the Maine State Police, the Maine State Fire Marshal, and those from the Portland, Falmouth, Gorham, Scarborough, and Cumberland County police departments. So I think it's fair to say I know a bit about the need for our working canines to have prompt, excellent medical care in emergency situations.

The establishment of "An Act To Protect Persons Who Provide Assistance to Law Enforcement, Search and Rescue Dogs and Service Dogs" in 2018 was a massive undertaking, and a landmark step to make sure that emergency point of care medical services could and would be provided to our working canine corps. I feel that it is vital to pass LD 2156 to ensure that appropriately trained local EMS personnel can continue to provide these vital services.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. I would be happy to respond to any questions you might have regarding the foregoing.

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Portland, Maine