

LD 238, An Act to Protect Emergency Medical Services Persons' Right to Work in Multiple Health Care Settings

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage and Financial Services:

My name is Eric Wellman. I am a licensed paramedic in the State of Maine and live in Scarborough. I oppose LD 238, An Act to Protect Emergency Medical Services Persons' Right to Work in Multiple Health Care Settings.

Maine Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is crucial in licensing our state's EMS clinicians and ambulance services. However, it is essential to note that Maine EMS does not currently license facilities that provide Emergency Medical Services or any other medical care. Furthermore, Maine EMS may lack the expertise and personnel to adequately evaluate the work EMS clinicians do within hospitals, clinics, and medical facilities.

Given these limitations, those facilities should directly employ EMS clinicians. This employment arrangement would ensure that delegated practice is clearly defined and effectively supervised. EMS clinicians receive appropriate training and education as defined by the facility. Furthermore, direct employment would provide fair compensation without involving pass-through entities.

I am concerned that adding contractors and volunteers to the mix does not improve the overall employment situation for EMS clinicians. Instead, it may allow others to manipulate their employment conditions, potentially undermining their well-being.

Additionally, considering the ongoing challenges EMS faces in retaining qualified personnel and addressing wage shortages in ambulance services, introducing more opportunities for non-compensated work within medical facilities seems counterproductive to promoting better employment for EMS clinicians.

In conclusion, I urge you to carefully consider the potential impact of LD 238 on the employment and supervision of EMS clinicians working within medical facilities. It is crucial to prioritize their well-being and ensure that they are adequately supported in their roles.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Eric Wellman, MS, NRP