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Testimony of Representative Suzanne Salisbury in support of
**LD 245, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon
Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and other distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, I am Representative Sue Salisbury from House District 128, which includes part of Westbrook. I am pleased to offer testimony in support of **LD 245, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State.**

I was honored to serve on the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services during the 130th and 131st Legislatures. The commission worked closely with EMS stakeholders to determine what could be done to save the EMS system that is quickly failing. We heard about services that were closing because reimbursements did not cover the cost of providing care. We heard about low pay for providers and a system that we determined was essential as a legislative body but was not receiving the consideration it needed to survive.

In the 131st Legislature, we were able to secure a record amount of funding for EMS totaling \$31 million that was meant to be given out in two distributions. The first distribution was meant to stabilize services in danger of closing. The second distribution was intended to be sustainability grants to allow the services to implement long-term planning. Unfortunately, the money has been mired in rulemaking and has been very slow to go out. Services that genuinely needed the money have not applied due to the bureaucratic red tape.

It is time to go back to where we started and implement the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission:

1. Create the Maine Emergency Medical Services Commission.
2. Cities and towns must post a plan for how transportation emergency medical services will be delivered.

3. Clarify language around emergency medical providers working as contractors
4. Funding needs analysis related to regionalization
5. Reorganization of the Maine EMS Board
6. Implement a public information campaign

Thank you for your time and consideration.