



Maine County Commissioners Association

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March 17, 2025

Sen. Joseph Rafferty, Chair
Rep. Kelly Murphy, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: *Comments of MCCA in support of LD 722, An Act to Fund an Administrative Structure of an Emergency Medical Services Education Program in the Community College System*

Chair Beebe-Center, Chair Hasenfus, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

On behalf of the Maine County Commissioners Association, we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to this Committee in support of LD 722.

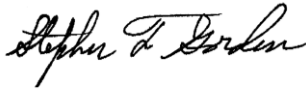
About MCCA. Briefly, the Maine County Commissioners Association was established in 1890 to assist Maine's county government in providing vital services to Maine citizens in a responsive, efficient, and credible manner. The Association is based in Augusta, represents all 16 of Maine's counties, and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county.

What does LD 722 do? LD 722 would appropriate \$5,000,000 per year for FY 26 and FY 27 to establish and maintain an emergency services education administrative structure within Maine's community college system.

Discussion. Emergency medical services organizations and EMS personnel provide critical services to communities and work to ensure the health and safety of all people across our state. However, these organizations are struggling to maintain services, particularly in rural parts of the state. Two years ago, the Legislature established a commission to evaluate the challenges confronting EMS agencies in Maine, and county government was represented on that commission. One of the recommendations of the Commission was to establish an education program within Maine's community college system that will increase accessibility and potentially allow prospective students to remain close to home, especially in more rural areas of the state where the need for EMS personnel is greatest. We support this recommendation.

Conclusion. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on in support of this bill. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Respectfully submitted,

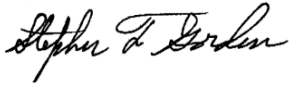


Stephen Gorden
Co-Chair, Legislative Policy Committee, MCCA
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Jean-Marie Caterina
Co-Chair, Legislative Policy Committee,

cc: Commissioner Andre Cushing, President, MCCA



Stephen Gordon
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