

Members of the committee,

25 Mar '25

My name is Sean N. Hall. I am the Assistant Chief of the Orr's and Bailey Islands Fire Department, a municipal Firefighter for the Town of Harpswell, and hold a Maine EMT license at both the practitioner and Instructor/Coordinator levels. I am offering testimony neither in favor of, nor opposition to, LD 969, An Act to Increase Emergency Medical Services Provider Training Opportunities.

While I wholeheartedly concur that the availability of EMS training opportunities in the State of Maine is less robust than the demand for such training, I believe that LD 969 proposes legislative approval of language and mechanisms for accreditation of training centers and sites that have already been enumerated in the ***Training Center Guide To the Maine EMS Training Center Standards*** of May 2023.

It is worth mentioning that many of the standards and processes found in the aforementioned guide for accreditation are somewhat arduous for smaller, individual ambulance services and municipal entities to implement, that pathways to accreditation and affiliation do currently exist.

Where LD 969 shines, is the attention it has brought to the seeming dearth of available EMS licensure training opportunities that exist in this state. Particularly with respect to those opportunities that are proximal to, and conveniently scheduled for working and retired adults in the mid coast and rural regions of our state. Areas historically and currently staffed by primarily by volunteer responders.

I also feel as if the appeal to Representative Golek from her constituents to address the limited availability of EMS training, is something of a canary in the coal mine with respect to how programs offered through Maine's Community College System are funded, supported, and prioritized at both the state and institutional level.

Personally, I would like to see increased funding of, as well as greater support for, and expansion to, existing community college EMS licensure programs, so that needs of underserved communities are better met.

Sincerely,

Sean N. Hall, BA, MS Ed