



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Written Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton*

## **LD 841: Resolve to Study the Delivery of Emergency Medical Services and Ferry Service Effects on Island Communities**

*Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee*

**Senator Beebee-Center and Representative Hasenfus, and Honorable Members of the Committee:**

My name is Representative Holly Eaton, and I proudly represent House District 15, which includes Deer Isle, Stonington, Brooklin, Tremont, Southwest Harbor, Frenchboro, Swan's Island, Isle au Haut, and Vinalhaven. I'm writing today in strong support of **LD 841**, a resolve directing the Maine Office of Community Affairs to convene a working group to study the delivery of emergency medical services and the effects of ferry service on island communities.

As someone who represents several unbridged islands, I see firsthand how essential reliable ferry transportation and timely emergency services are to the health and safety of our communities. These systems are lifelines—not just for routine travel, but for critical care, including trauma response, chronic illness management, and childbirth.

With the anticipated closure of the labor and delivery department at Mount Desert Island Hospital on July 1, island residents—including those on Swan's Island and Frenchboro—will face new and potentially serious challenges when planning for childbirth and other time-sensitive care. While we don't yet know how each family will respond, the added uncertainty highlights how precarious access to emergency services can be for those who depend on ferry transportation and limited medical infrastructure.

This bill is not just about ferries—it's about lives. It's about making sure that a resident in need of urgent care, whether a pregnant person or someone experiencing cardiac arrest, doesn't face life-threatening delays simply because of where they live.

District 15: Brooklin, Deer Isle, Eagle Island Township, Frenchboro, Southwest Harbor, Stonington, Swan's Island, Tremont, Isle au Haut, Vinalhaven

I'm grateful to Senator Curry for introducing this legislation and proud to be a co-sponsor. The formation of a thoughtful, inclusive working group—one that includes ferry officials, EMS professionals, island municipal leaders, and island community members—is an important first step in ensuring the state does all it can to strengthen access to emergency services for our most isolated residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important resolve.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Representative Holly Eaton**  
House District 15