

Janis Petzel
Islesboro
LD 841
April 2, 2025

To: Senator Pinny Beebe-Center and Representative Tavis Hasenfus Chairs, and
Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

Re: Testimony about LD 841 to Study the Delivery of Emergency Medical Services
and Ferry Service Effects on 27 island communities in the State

My name is Janis Petzel. I am a year-round resident of Islesboro, one of the 15 unbridged islands off the coast of Maine that have year-round populations. Like the rest of Maine, we have many people of retirement age on the island (population close to 600 in winter and more than 2000 in the summer, median age 57.2 years old). We also have families with small children, and an 8-bed assisted living facility. Medical emergencies can and do happen at all hours. We have a dedicated EMS squad on the island, but we cannot do without ambulance access to the ferry for medical emergencies.

Given the changes proposed by the state for EMS re-organization and proposals by Maine DOT to change where our ferry “lives” at night, and some discussion by DOT about whether or not the ferry should make emergency runs after hours, a study is in order. I urge this committee to vote “Ought to pass.” Thank you.

Submitted by Janis Petzel, M.D.