

April 15, 2025

Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee

132<sup>nd</sup> Maine Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04330

RE: LD 507 - An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund LifeFlight of Maine

Today, I stand before you to champion LD 507 – An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund LifeFlight of Maine. My name is Shawn Anderson, and I am from Falmouth, Maine. Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of serving in senior administrative roles at The Aroostook Medical Center (now Northern Light AR Gould Hospital), Cary Medical Center, and Houlton Regional Hospital. I spent six years managing physician practices at TAMC, nearly 15 years as Chief Operating Officer at Cary Medical Center, and five years as CEO at Houlton Regional Hospital before accepting the role of President and CEO of Medical Mutual Insurance Company of Maine.

In my decades of healthcare service in rural Aroostook County, I have learned many invaluable lessons, the most profound being about the fragility and brevity of life. When tragedy strikes in the form of an accident or severe injury, time becomes a most precious commodity. When severe illness escalates beyond the capabilities of our quality rural hospitals and health providers in Maine's remote areas, time is of the essence. Day in and day out during my tenure in hospital administration in Aroostook County, I witnessed the heroic efforts of LifeFlight of Maine, delivering skilled and compassionate critical care transportation services just in time to those in dire need. Even outside of work, I often found myself living within the flight path of LifeFlight's critical care air transport routes. While some may find the sounds of LifeFlight aircraft disruptive, I consider those sounds urgent and essential. Each LifeFlight transport I witnessed reminded me that there is a life hanging in the balance within that helicopter or airplane. I am profoundly grateful for the indispensable work LifeFlight performs for the people of Maine.

Today, I rise in unwavering support of the bond to sustain LifeFlight's vital work and mission. Without the funding that LD 507 represents, helipads across the state will continue to deteriorate and become unsafe. Refueling depots will fall into disrepair or be placed out of service. Precious time will be lost, and lives will hang in the balance. Critical communication systems will go silent, and imperative care coordination efforts will cease. Numerous local weather station units positioned at key locations throughout the state will stop reporting the life-saving information crucial for the swift and safe transport of patients to their required level of care. Without the funding from LD 507, there will not be enough aircraft to meet the needs of Mainers and the many visitors to our vast Maine geography. Indeed, without the support from LD 507, LifeFlight cannot fulfill its complete mission and provide the absolutely essential role that so many Mainers rely upon.

Today, I urge the Committee to fully and emphatically support the passage of LD 507 for LifeFlight of Maine and for the people of Maine. This is an investment you will never regret.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shawn D. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shawn" being more prominent and the last name "Anderson" following in a similar style.

Shawn D. Anderson  
17 Inverness Road  
Falmouth, ME 04105

Shawn Anderson  
FALMOUTH  
LD 507

If possible, could I please testify as close to 1:00pm as possible? Thank you.