



Comment Submitted to the Maine Legislature, Transportation Committee

On Behalf of Mount Desert Island Hospital and Health Centers

April 28, 2025

Dear Members of the Transportation Committee,

On behalf of Mount Desert Island Hospital and Health Centers, I respectfully submit this comment in strong support of efforts to remove barriers to transportation access for Maine's Outer Islands. The focus is on ensuring emergency response under the proposed LD 1231.

As a rural Critical Access Hospital and healthcare system serving Hancock County and the surrounding island communities, we know firsthand that reliable, affordable, and timely access to the mainland is convenient and essential for our patients' and providers' health and well-being.

Many island residents face significant transportation challenges when seeking routine medical care, urgent services, specialty consultations, and preventive care. Difficulties in ferry schedules, limited infrastructure, and high travel costs create barriers that can delay necessary treatment and exacerbate health inequities for our Outer Island neighbors.

Improving and safeguarding transportation access would directly and meaningfully impact public health outcomes. It would ensure that patients can access critical health services without hardship and that healthcare professionals can more easily reach and serve the island communities that depend on them. Removing these barriers would help bridge longstanding gaps in healthcare access and strengthen the sustainability of rural and island healthcare delivery.

We urge the Committee to prioritize policies and investments that expand, stabilize, and improve transportation options to Maine's Outer Islands. This is a vital step toward ensuring equitable access to healthcare for all Maine residents, no matter where they live.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

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Christina J. Maguire
President and CEO
Mount Desert Island Hospital and Health Centers