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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton for
**LD 2133: An Act Regarding Licensing of Community
Paramedicine Services and Clinicians**
To the Joint Standing Committee on
Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and esteemed colleagues of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee: My name is Representative Holly Eaton, and I represent House District 15, which includes Deer Isle, Stonington, Brooklin, Tremont, Southwest Harbor, Frenchboro, Swan's Island, Isle au Haut, and Vinalhaven. I also serve as a board member of Memorial Ambulance Corporation in Deer Isle.

Community paramedicine is essential to rural and island communities like mine. In areas with limited access to primary care and long transport times to hospitals, these services are not an add-on — they are a critical bridge that helps residents remain safely in their homes, reduces unnecessary emergency department utilization, and supports primary care providers who are already stretched thin.

As healthcare access continues to contract in rural Maine, policies that introduce additional administrative burdens, rigid definitions, or workforce barriers risk destabilizing programs that are already operating at the margins. For small and volunteer-based services, even modest regulatory changes can have outsized impacts on sustainability and staffing, ultimately affecting patient care.

I respectfully ask the committee to consider LD 2133 with careful attention to its practical effects on existing community paramedicine programs, particularly in rural and island settings, and to preserve the flexibility these programs need to continue meeting patients where they are. Protecting these services from unintended disruption is essential to maintaining access to care for some of Maine's most vulnerable residents.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this bill.

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