



*Office of the City Manager*

**Written Testimony of Nick Cloutier, on Behalf of the City of Waterville to the Health and Human Services Committee**

**In Favor of LD 2119 - An Act to Expand Reimbursement for Treatment in Place, Community Paramedicine and Alternate Destination Transport**

My name is Nick Cloutier, and I am the City Manager of Waterville. I am testifying in favor of LD 2119. For two years, Waterville's Community Paramedicine (CP) program has bridged healthcare gaps in our community. Waterville's poverty rate is 25%, more than double Maine's average, and nearly 95% of the City's CP pilot patients are on MaineCare or Medicare.

More than 90% of Waterville CP patients are older adults aging in place, many of whom highly utilized emergency services to manage their chronic health conditions including COPD, CHF, diabetes, pneumonia, asthma, and hypertension before receiving CP care.

The City's CP pilot has been operated by Waterville EMS staff who have served 75 households and completed 338 individual visits. They have provided 351 total in-home treatments including fall risk assessments, clinical assessments, vital collection, medication reconciliation, weight checks, blood draws, vaccine administration, medication administration, EKGs, wound care, and chronic disease education. With the recent closure of Northern Light Inland Hospital, Waterville has relied on the CP program to help provide preventative care previously available through the shuttered medical center. Since closure, we have seen Waterville CP visits increase by nearly 70%. There has been a 100% increase in repeat users of CP services.

LD 2119, if passed, will have a tremendous benefit to our community. It will allow Waterville EMS to begin expanding the CP program, reaching more vulnerable people in need of preventative health care services. The bill also creates financial sustainability on the municipal budgeting level, helping us maintain this vital health program for years to come.

As rural hospitals continue to close, and primary care deserts grow, alternative delivery methods such as CP are becoming increasingly important parts of healthcare infrastructure. Our City continues to see significant health benefits for all Waterville residents, and in particular older adults, through the CP program. This impact will only grow with the passage and implementation of LD 2119.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Cloutier".

Nick Cloutier

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Waterville  
LD 2119

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