



## Town of Winthrop

17 Highland Avenue  
Winthrop, Maine 04364  
winthropmaine.gov  
207-377-7200

February 11, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

My name is Anthony Wilson, and I serve as Town Manager for Winthrop. On behalf of the Town of Winthrop, I am writing in strong support of LD 2119, *An Act to Expand Reimbursement for Treatment in Place, Community Paramedicine, and Alternate Destination Transport*.

The Winthrop Ambulance Service provides 24/7 emergency medical response to seven Kennebec County communities: Winthrop, Fayette, Manchester, Monmouth, Mount Vernon, and Wayne. In 2025, the service responded to 2,181 calls for assistance. In 485 cases – or 22% of all calls – our EMTs and paramedics provided medically appropriate care that did not result in transport to a hospital emergency room.

Under current law, those non-transport responses generate no reimbursement, despite requiring the same trained personnel, equipment, supplies, and readiness as transported calls. As a result, ambulance services absorb the full cost of providing care, even when treatment in place is clinically appropriate and avoids unnecessary emergency room use.

This year, Winthrop budgeted more than \$1.7 million to provide ambulance services. We expect to recover approximately \$975,000 through insurance reimbursements (albeit at inadequate and outdated rates) and patient payments. The remaining \$846,214 must be subsidized by local property taxpayers across the seven communities we serve. For individual towns, that subsidy ranges from \$38,599 to nearly \$291,000.

LD 2119 addresses this problem directly and responsibly.

First, it strengthens the financial sustainability of ambulance services, many of which – particularly private providers – are struggling to survive. The demise of private services will only place a greater burden on municipal services ... and their taxpayers.

Second, LD 2119 shifts costs away from local property taxpayers and toward insurers and MaineCare by allowing reimbursement for medically necessary care that does not require transport to an emergency room. Even a modest reduction in municipal subsidies would provide meaningful property tax relief at a time when communities are acutely sensitive to rising taxes.

LD 2119 supports better patient outcomes, smarter use of emergency departments, and a more sustainable EMS system – without reducing access to care.

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For these reasons, the Town of Winthrop respectfully urges the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2119.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "W".

Anthony Wilson  
Town Manager  
Town of Winthrop