

Cormick Frizzell  
Waterville Fire Department  
LD 2119

To whom it may concern:

LD 2119, An Act to Expand Reimbursement for Treatment in Place, Community Paramedicine and Alternate Destination Transport, could be highly beneficial to various EMS and Rescue services throughout our state for revenue for providing vital community paramedicine services as well as adequate treatment in the home.

Community paramedicine services, when well utilized, can keep people in their homes and bring our care to them. Vitals services often provided include blood draws, wound care, vital signs, ensuring medication compliance, home safety assessments, and whatever else is determined to be needed to keep our patients safe and healthy in their homes. Keeping care in the home lessens the congestion our hospitals are experiencing and allows for timely and efficient care. Additionally, without in-home care, our patients face increased usage of the 911 system and the ER, resulting in thousands of dollars in bills. Allowing community paramedicine programs to seek re-imburement from insurance companies will reduce costs system wide and provide effective care for Maine citizens.

Treatment provided in the home that does not result in transport is difficult to bill for and often not covered by insurance. Timely and life-improving treatment that we often provide in the home (that may not result in transport) includes treating diabetic and respiratory emergencies, as well as lift assists and basic wound care. These treatments often include administering medications (such as albuterol, dextrose, and dexamethasone) and using various supplies (IVs and bandages). Currently, we are unable to bill insurance or Medicare directly for treating people and face a loss for providing timely treatment. Allowing EMS agencies to bill insurances for these services can re-coup costs and limit the bills patients must pay that insurance won't cover.

I believe that allowing billing to occur will ultimately lower costs in our system by limiting transport and ER costs. EMS services are in financial crises and by recouping costs we will keep vital services less in the red. Providing more care in the home through community paramedicine will allow our aging population to successfully live at home with fewer trips to our over-capacity ERs and limited number of primary care providers.

Thank you,  
Cormick Frizzell  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
Waterville Fire Department