

Testimony of William O'Neal

Director, Maine Office of Emergency Medical Services (Maine EMS)

Department of Public Safety

NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST LD 2119

“An Act to Expand Reimbursement for Treatment in Place, Community Paramedicine and Alternative Destination Transport”

Presented by Representative DeBrito of Waterville

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Wil O'Neal, and I am the Director of Maine Emergency Medical Services, here today to submit testimony *neither for nor against* LD 2119.

We understand that this bill seeks to ensure that our stakeholders receive compensation for many of the important services they provide by expanding existing requirements for insurance carriers and the MaineCare program to provide reimbursement for ambulance services.

Reimbursement for the currently uncompensated or limited compensation for services that Emergency Medical Services personnel provide, is the most crucial way to ensure the sustainability and long-term success of our Emergency Medical Services system provides. Expanding requirements for insurance carriers to cover treatment provided on the scene of an emergency call, through community paramedicine, and the transport of a patient to an alternative destination will allow our stakeholders to not only increase their financial success, but also ease pressure on our healthcare system by ensuring that patients reach the most appropriate destination for their care to continue, and not solely an emergency department.

We strongly encourage this committee to work closely with the Office of MaineCare Services within the Department of Health and Human Services and to coordinate its efforts to align with the Governor's proposed supplemental budget to achieve this goal.

I am glad to provide support for any work sessions on this important topic, and happy to answer any questions. Thank you,

Wil O'Neal, Director, Maine EMS