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February 12, 2026

To: Committee on Health and Human Services
From: Steve Sloan, Fire Chief

RE: Maine LD 2119 ***“An Act to Expand Reimbursement for Treatment in Place, Community Paramedicine and Alternate Destination Transport”***

Senator Curry, Senator Moore, Speaker Fecteau, Representative Debrito, Representative Arata, Representative Roeder, Representative Salisbury and esteemed members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

I am writing to express strong support for “An Act to Expand Reimbursement for Treatment in Place, Community Paramedicine and Alternate Destination Transport” (132nd Maine Legislature).

This legislation represents an important and necessary modernization of Maine’s emergency medical services reimbursement structure. By requiring MaineCare and commercial insurance carriers to reimburse for treatment provided on scene, community paramedicine services, and alternate destination transport, this bill aligns reimbursement policy with current clinical best practices and patient-centered care.

EMS systems across Maine have evolved significantly. Today’s emergency medical services providers do far more than transport patients to hospital emergency departments. Paramedics and EMTs are increasingly delivering definitive care in the field, managing chronic conditions through community paramedicine programs, and identifying clinically appropriate alternate destinations such as urgent care centers, behavioral health crisis facilities, substance use treatment centers, federally qualified health centers, and primary care practices.

However, reimbursement structures have not kept pace with this evolution. When payment is tied solely to transport to a hospital emergency department, EMS agencies are placed in the difficult position of choosing between what is clinically appropriate and what is financially sustainable. This bill corrects that misalignment.

Reimbursing treatment in place recognizes the clinical judgment of licensed EMS professionals and supports patient-centered decision-making. It reduces unnecessary emergency department utilization, lowers overall healthcare costs, and improves system efficiency. Expanding reimbursement for community paramedicine strengthens preventative care, reduces hospital readmissions, and enhances coordination between EMS and primary care providers.

Similarly, reimbursement for alternate destination transport ensures that patients receive care at the most appropriate facility for their condition rather than defaulting to overcrowded emergency departments. This is particularly critical for behavioral health and substance use crises, where specialized facilities are often more appropriate and effective than hospital emergency rooms.

Importantly, the bill also directs the Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with Maine Emergency Medical Services, to establish clinical, documentation, billing, and quality assurance standards. This ensures that patient safety, accountability, and high-quality care remain central to implementation.

This legislation supports rural and municipal EMS agencies, promotes financial sustainability, enhances patient outcomes, and strengthens Maine's healthcare delivery system as a whole.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support this important bill.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to Maine's emergency medical services system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Sloan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Sloan
Fire Chief, City of Westbrook, Maine