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March 3, 2026

*Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton in support of*  
**LD 2119: An Act to Expand Reimbursement for Treatment in Place,  
Community Paramedicine and Alternate Destination Transport**  
*To The Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services*

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed colleagues of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Representative Holly Eaton, and I represent House District 15, which includes Deer Isle, Stonington, Brooklin, Tremont, Southwest Harbor, Frenchboro, Swan's Island, Isle au Haut, and Vinalhaven. I am also a member of the Board of Directors for Memorial Ambulance Corporation in Deer Isle, a small nonprofit ambulance service that operates a community paramedicine program.

For small and volunteer-based ambulance services in rural and island communities, reimbursement stability is critical. Community paramedicine programs require staffing, coordination with primary care providers, and consistent follow-up care. When reimbursement is uncertain or inconsistent, these programs rely heavily on grants and local fundraising to remain operational.

LD 2119 provides important clarity by requiring MaineCare and insurance carriers to reimburse treatment on scene, community paramedicine services, and alternate destination transport. In communities like mine, where access to hospital care may require significant travel time, these tools allow EMS providers to deliver clinically appropriate care while reducing unnecessary emergency department utilization.

For small services operating on narrow margins, predictable reimbursement is not a windfall — it is a sustainability measure. I respectfully urge the committee to support LD 2119.

Thank you for your consideration.

District 15: Brooklin, Deer Isle, Eagle Island Township, Frenchboro, Southwest Harbor,  
Stonington, Swan's Island, Tremont, Isle au Haut, Vinalhaven