



Glenn "Chip" Curry
Senator, District 11

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Testimony of Senator Chip Curry introducing
LD 526, "An Act to Provide Funding to Emergency Medical Services
Organizations"**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
March 20, 2023

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and distinguished colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, I am Senator Chip Curry, and I represent the 26 rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County. Today, I offer my total support of LD 526, "An Act to Provide Funding to Emergency Medical Services Organizations."

This bill has its roots in the final report of the Blue Ribbon Commission To Study Emergency Medical Services in the State. The Commission made several recommendations, including Recommendation A-2, which specifically calls for an allocation of \$25 million from the General Fund to support EMS organizations at immediate risk of failing, ultimately leaving their service areas without access to adequate emergency medical services. LD 526 would provide that critical funding and serve as a stopgap measure to help maintain the viability of these struggling EMS departments.

I ask that we consider the consequences of inaction. The consensus among EMS providers I've spoken with is that failure to provide this support will result in services and departments shutting down, longer wait times for emergency calls, and potentially larger property tax increases in our local communities as EMS department budgets will significantly increase. Without this funding, parts of our state could lose access to essential, life-saving emergency medical services.

I urge you to consider the importance of the work that these EMS organizations perform daily. They are the lifeline for many of our constituents, and their services are critical to our public safety infrastructure. I request your vote and advocacy in support of LD 526. Thank you for your time, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chip Curry".

Chip Curry
State Senator, District 11
Representing the 26 rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County