



PO Box 202
Waterville, ME 04903
(207) 209-3944
info@maineambulance.org

LD 526 An Act to Provide Funding to Emergency Medical Services Organizations
Support

March 20, 2022

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

My name is Robert "Butch" Russell and I live in Windham. I serve as the President of the Maine Ambulance Association, a non-profit trade association committed to improving and supporting Maine's EMS system. Our members include emergency medical services of all sizes and corporate structures, and from every corner of the state. I am also the CEO of North East Mobile Health Services, a For-Profit Ambulance Services based in Scarborough, Maine.

We support LD 526 because we are an industry in Crisis. Ambulance Leaders, on the frontline of Maine's healthcare system, are dealing with a worsening crisis caused by funding gaps and a workforce shortage. We see in the news regularly, how EMS services in Maine are in trouble and nearing a breaking point. This funding would be a lifeline for many services and would help assure that life-saving services remain available for the citizens and visitors of the communities they serve.

We want to remind the committee that this funding, although very important, is a one-time stop gap to assist services in need today. The funding would not help for future needs and without funding from other recommendations made by the Blue-Ribbon Commission that studied EMS in Maine, EMS services would continue to have shortfalls and remain in crisis. We must come up with ways to fund EMS to be sustainable in our state. We take this opportunity to ask for your support to many Bills this session that are geared to help our failing EMS system.

Thank you for your support of Maine's EMS providers.

Butch Russell, President
Maine Ambulance Association
rrussell@nemhs.com