



Glenn "Chip" Curry
Senator, District 11

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Chip Curry introducing
**LD 583, "An Act to Support Informed Community Self-Determination in
Emergency Medical Services Planning,"**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
March 3, 2025*

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and distinguished colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Senator Chip Curry, and I represent the 26 rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County. I am pleased to present LD 583, which builds upon the successful work to strengthen Maine's emergency medical services system and support local communities in planning for their long-term emergency response needs, we began in the 130th Legislature.

In 2022, this committee advanced LD 1859, which established the Maine Emergency Medical Services Community Grant Program. That bill was a direct response to the urgent challenges facing communities across the state — particularly workforce shortages, changing patterns of volunteerism, and inadequate reimbursement rates.

Building off of the substantial work of the Maine Health Access Foundation and the Maine Rural Health Access Network, LD 1859 laid the groundwork for a structured, community-driven process called Informed Community Self-Determination. This process helps municipalities evaluate their EMS assets and needs, explore potential service models, and make informed decisions about the future of emergency response in their regions. Simply put, it gives towns the tools to plan strategically rather than react after a crisis.

The bill before you now, LD 583, continues this work by providing \$200,000 in ongoing funding for the Maine Emergency Medical Services Community Grant Program. This funding will ensure that more towns — particularly those in rural and underserved areas — have access to the resources needed to evaluate their EMS services, engage with experts, and develop long-term sustainability plans.

This committee knows well that the challenges facing EMS have not gone away. The financial pressures of EMS providers and local property taxpayers have only intensified. Ensuring that every community — whether rural, suburban, or urban — has a well-planned and sustainable EMS system is a matter of public safety and sound fiscal management.



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By supporting LD 583, we will uphold our commitment to helping Maine towns take control of their emergency medical planning and provide more sustainable and reliable EMS services for the future. I urge the committee to support this bill, and I welcome any questions.

Sincerely,

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

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