

TO: Senator Bailey, Representative Gramlich

Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

FROM: Aiden Koplovsky, NRP, Chair, Maine EMS Education Committee

RE: Testimony against, LD 969, An Act to Increase Emergency Medical Services Provider Training Opportunities

DATE: March 25, 2025

**Senator Bailey, Representative Gramlich, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services,**

My name is Aiden Koplovsky, and I live in Hampden, Maine. I am here today as the Chair of the Maine EMS Education Committee to testify in opposition to LD 969, *An Act to Increase Emergency Medical Services Provider Training Opportunities*.

Maine EMS currently maintains a thoughtful and deliberate process for licensing EMS education providers or training centers. The most recent training center standards, adopted in 2023 after a multi-year process, were developed with extensive opportunities for stakeholder engagement. These standards prioritize high-quality, accessible EMS education while ensuring protections for both students and patients.

The current standards are reviewed on a regular basis with careful consideration of student outcomes, including retention rates in classes, pass rates on national testing, student satisfaction, and job placement. Since implementing the newest revision of these standards, we have seen an increase in national testing pass rates and a steady number of students completing educational programs and seeking certification.

Under **Chapter Four, Section A** of the current standards, any Maine EMS Board-recognized and licensed ambulance service operating within the state is eligible to obtain a training center license. This existing framework already provides a pathway for EMS services or municipalities to engage in education while maintaining rigorous quality standards.

Furthermore, the **Maine EMS Agenda 2035**, a strategic plan developed by the Board of EMS with input from hundreds of EMS stakeholders, outlines key goals for EMS education and training. Among these goals are:

- Ensuring sustainable ways to provide continuing education that delivers quality, effectiveness, and convenience.

- Establishing a formal, structured training and development pipeline for EMS instructors at all levels.

Any effort to bypass or weaken the principles outlined in the training center standards threatens to undermine these carefully crafted goals.

EMS providers hold a unique position of trust within their communities. Few other professions are granted the same level of immediate, unwavering confidence—when a resident of Maine calls 911, they open their doors to a complete stranger, entrusting them with their care in their most vulnerable moments. That trust has been built over decades of refinement of rules and standards that ensure the clinicians showing up in an emergency have received a high-quality education. Any attempt to lower the standards for EMS education risks eroding public confidence and, in turn, weakening the support and respect our EMS providers have rightfully earned.

The mission of Maine EMS is to promote and provide for a **comprehensive and effective emergency medical services system** to ensure optimum patient care with standards for all providers. **LD 969 threatens that mission.** I urge you to reject this legislation and preserve the integrity of EMS education in Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aiden Koplovsky MBA NRP

Chair

Maine EMS Education Committee