



Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry  
President of the Senate

**THE MAINE SENATE**  
**132nd Legislature**

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Testimony in Support of**  
**LD 841, “Resolve, to Study the Delivery of Emergency Medical Services to and Ferry Service**  
**Effects on Island Communities in the State”**  
**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety**  
**April 2, 2025**

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Mattie Daughtry. I serve as President of the Maine Senate and proudly represent Senate District 23, including Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and Yarmouth.

I’m here today to testify in strong support of LD 841, a resolve that would convene a working group to examine the delivery of emergency medical services and the impact of ferry service on Maine’s island communities.

In 2022, the Legislature took a clear and decisive step by stating in law that, “the Legislature finds that the provision of medical assistance in an emergency is a matter of vital concern affecting the health, safety and welfare of the public.” That declaration affirms what we all know to be true: emergency medical services are not optional—they are essential.

However, for our island communities, accessing those essential services can be extraordinarily difficult. Whether it’s a storm delaying the ferry, a shortage of EMS personnel, or the need for rapid medical evacuation via LifeFlight, our island residents often face deeply inequitable barriers to emergency care—barriers that can be the difference between life and death.

LD 841 recognizes these realities and offers a path forward. By bringing together a working group that includes representatives from ferry-served and non-ferry-served islands, the Department of Public Safety, the Maine State Ferry Service, LifeFlight of Maine, and local EMS and municipal leaders, this resolve ensures that we’re asking the right questions—and asking them of the right people.

It’s a smart, collaborative step that doesn’t pretend to solve every challenge overnight but positions us to develop thoughtful, informed recommendations—and, ultimately, legislation that meets the needs of all Maine communities.

This is about living up to the commitment we’ve already made: that emergency care is a vital public concern. Let’s make sure that promise reaches our island neighbors, too.

I urge the Committee to support LD 841, and I thank you for your time and your service to the people of Maine. I’d be happy to answer any questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

President of the Senate, Senate District 23

*Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth*