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Testimony **In Support** of LD 841 – A resolve, to Study the Delivery of Emergency Medical Services to and Ferry Service Effects on Island Communities in the State

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Joe Kellner of Windham, and I am the Chief Executive Officer of LifeFlight of Maine a statewide not-for profit critical care air ambulance service. I am a licensed paramedic and have worked in Emergency Medical Services in Maine for over 20 years and have experience with nearly every delivery model of EMS that we have here. In addition, I spent seven years serving on the Board of Emergency Medical Services, including two years as its chair, and participated in both Blue-Ribbon Commission studies on Emergency Medical Services in Maine.

Island living creates unique, and often challenging, situations regarding accessing healthcare. Further, the ferry service has struggled to be a safety net when other avenues for care delivery are not possible, because of many very real factors.

LD841 creates a committee to study the challenges and delivery of emergency medical services on the islands and how the MDOT ferry service interfaces with emergency care on the mid- and downeast island communities in the State. This is an important and complex issue and finding solutions to assure timely transport from the islands to main land hospitals is essential to the safety of our island communities. As one of the primary and secondary EMS responders to the islands, LifeFlight is pleased to be able to contribute to this effort as a member of the proposed committee.

The long-term solution to these challenges will involve multiple inputs and new and innovative thinking. We fully support this approach and will gladly participate if this resolve is passed.

Thank you for your consideration.

