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**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***

Good morning, Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. My name is Rick Petrie, and I am a Paramedic and the Chief Executive Officer for North East Mobile Health, an Ambulance Service based in Saco Maine. Previously, I served as the Regional EMS Director for the area covering the Coast and Islands for 21 years.

I was fortunate to serve as a member of the EMS Blue Ribbon Committee and have been working with the Island EMS agencies for many years on the escalating patient transport problem.

Every time the tones go off for an Emergency Medical Call on the Islands, one of the responders has the job of planning the logistics of patient transport. Currently, the primary system available to many of the islands, the Ferry Service, is strained by workforce and operational issues. LifeFlight of Maine is a key component of the transport algorithm but should be reserved for the most critically ill or injured patients. Other players in the system; Penobscot Air, Coast Guard, Marine Patrol are constrained with their own operational issues. Many times, the responders must rely on the goodwill of local lobster and personal boat owners to step up to help their neighbors.

It is important for the Legislature to convene this working group to look at a system that would reduce the burden on the Ferry service and develop a more consistent, reliable and patient-centric system for the transport of emergency medical patients from the islands to the hospitals on the mainland. There are models available that could not only reach this goal but can also provide Emergency Medical Support services to Island Communities that are currently under-resourced.

Thank you for your consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

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