

TESTIMONY

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and members of the committee. My name is Jennifer Quehl, and I am here today to testify in support of LD507.

Recently my son Roger texted me a video he took of a LifeFlight helicopter landing on top of a hospital. While watching the video I could not help but feel my heart become full of gratitude. A little over two years ago on February 14, 2023 I received a phone call that forever changed our lives. I was notified that our son Roger was in a head on collision and he was being flown from the scene by LifeFlight of Maine to Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor.

At that moment, we didn't know if Roger was alive, what kind of injuries he had sustained, or even if we would make it to the hospital in time for my husband and myself to see him. We quickly got in the car and made the drive to the hospital, completely in the dark, hearts racing, trying to prepare ourselves for anything, not knowing what to expect. The uncertainty was unbearable. I remember how heavy that silence was-just sitting there, while we drove bracing for the worst. When we arrived at the hospital, we were ushered into a small room and told to wait. I'll never forget how long those minutes felt. Every second that passed, my heart raced, not knowing what news we would receive.

After a time two people walked in. They introduced themselves as members of LifeFlight of Maine. And in that moment,

everything changed. They began to give us information about Roger- Our son was alive, what had happened, what care he had received, the injuries our son had sustained, as well as giving my husband and I hope. Their presence, their professionalism, and their compassion calmed us in the middle of chaos. Because of LifeFlight, Roger received critical care immediately-from the scene of the accident all the way to the trauma center. Their quick response, their expertise, and their dedication made all the difference.

Every day we have with our son is a gift. LifeFlight carried our whole family through the darkest moment of our lives. Today, Roger is alive, continuing to recover, and living a full life-things we never thought we'd take for granted after that day.

LifeFlight didn't just save my son-they gave us all a second chance. They carried Roger through the most crucial moments of his life, and in doing so, they gave our family the opportunity to heal together, to grow together, and together we remain a family. That is why I am here.

I am forever grateful for the LifeFlight team and the work they do. Thank you for your time.