



**LEGAL SERVICES  
FOR MAINE ELDERS**

February 11, 2026

**Testimony of Marge Kilkelly for Legal Services for Maine Elders  
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Myer, and esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Marge Kilkelly, I am here on behalf of Legal Services for Maine Elders. LSE provides free legal help statewide for Mainers aged 60 and older when their basic human needs are at stake. Our clients are generally low-income, some with medically complex conditions.

**We strongly support LD 2119 An Act to Expand Reimbursement for Treatment in Place, Community Paramedicine and Alternate Destination Transport.**

Maine has a history of being resourceful and thrifty. We have a tendency to find solutions to issues often by looking at what we have and utilizing it better. This legislation offers a unique and creative solution to some of the healthcare issues of older rural often isolated older Mainers.

There are three types of care addressed in this bill:

- Treatment on site- not every call requires transport. When a trained EMS provider can resolve a situation in the patients' home reduces stress for the patient as well as being cost effective.
- Transport to other than a ED- sometimes an emergency call actually requires transport- but to a facility other than an ED reduces the number of transitions for a patient as well as recuing cost.
- Providing episodic patient evaluation, advice and treatment requested or directed by a - physician, such as post hospitalization follow up care, monitoring chronic conditions or wellness checks. Quality follow up care improves patient outcomes reduces readmissions.

Community paramedicine home based care has many benefits beyond the actual care. A trained EMS person would be able to identify issues that would almost never be brought up during an office visit.

- Is the home cold? Hot?
- Is there food available for the resident?
- Is the patient struggling with mental health issues?
- Is the home safe or does there need to be an evaluation for fall prevention measures?
- Are there people living in the home that raises a question of safety?

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Further, this care can also create a relationship between the provider and patient so that when an actual emergency transport to the ED is needed there is a bit less stress on the patient.

Finally, cost. We all know that the cost of healthcare is skyrocketing. Paramedicine serves as a triage to assure that the patient gets the appropriate care in the most appropriate setting, which often can reduce the cost of care.

I am going to end where I began. Maine has a history of being resourceful and thrifty. We have a tendency to find solutions to issues often by looking at what we have and utilizing it better. Community Paramedicine is an example of Maine resourcefulness, thriftiness and good common sense.

We urge the Committee to pass LD 2119.

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