

**Testimony of William O'Neal**

Director, Maine Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (Maine EMS)

Department of Public Safety

**IN SUPPORT OF LD 484**

"An Act Regarding the Department of Public Safety"

Presented by Senator HASENFUS of Readfield, for Public Hearing March 18, 2026

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

My name is Wil O'Neal, and I am the Director of Maine Emergency Medical Services. I am appearing before you today to testify in strong support of **LD 484**.

This legislation proposes to clarify the authority for licensed EMS agencies within the State of Maine regarding controlled substances. Currently, Emergency Medical Services and their professionals respond to emergencies in which a controlled substance is used to treat a life-threatening medical condition, such as a seizure. On February 5, 2026, the U.S. Department of Justice's Drug Enforcement Agency released its final rule implementing EMS agency registration under the 2017 Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act, with that rule effective as of March 9, 2026. In response to this rule, Maine EMS supports this legislation as providing needed language that directly supports our system's provision of life-saving care.

It is worth noting that Community Paramedicine Services and Clinicians licensed by the Board are included in this authorization, reflecting the evolving nature of our state's healthcare delivery model.

In our other legislative efforts, we have emphasized the importance of having the right "tools in our toolbox" to resolve complex regulatory circumstances. LD 484 provides similar clarity.

Thank you for your time and for your continued support of Maine's EMS clinicians and the patients they serve. I am more than happy to participate in any work sessions regarding this bill and to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

**Wil O'Neal**, Director, Maine EMS