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## Testimony in Support of LD 1290

### An Act To Amend the Statement of Purpose of the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982 To Include Emergency Responses That Do Not Require Transportation

Hearing Date: May 7, 2019 – 9:00 AM

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

My name is Jay Bradshaw. I live in Belgrade and serve as the Executive Director of the Maine Ambulance Association, a non-profit trade association committed to improving and supporting Maine's EMS system. Our members include emergency medical services of all sizes and corporate structures, and from every corner of the state.

We appreciate the opportunity to extend our support for this bill and would like to provide some historical context.

We were not initially planning to testify on this bill because its need was unclear. However, listening to Dr. Busko's testimony reminded me of another time a similar discussion was held in front of this committee regarding Community Paramedicine (CP).

Prior to my current role with the MAA, I served as the state's EMS Director for almost 20 years before retiring in 2015, and then in a brief reprise as interim director in 2019.

While CP is different in many ways than the model Dr. Busko described for Jackman, it is similar in that both are based upon the norm being **treatment and non-transport** (as opposed to *treat and transport* or transfer). This is where a memo from the Assistant Attorney General Lauren LaRochelle (11/21/11) is important because that opinion detailed a conflict with the enabling legislation for Maine EMS and the proposed pilot project. (I have and am happy to submit a copy of that opinion if it is of interest to the committee).

It is in hopes of avoiding a repeat of that conflict which LD 1290 seeks to resolve.

The system being developed for Jackman and the Moose River area described by Dr. Busko has been discussed at length with the Board of Registry in Medicine and Maine EMS. Each of the specific

treatments being considered are being thoroughly vetted and will be approved by Maine EMS prior to implementation.

Thanks to currently available technology, high-definition video/audio consultation with a physician is an integral part of the evaluation prior to treatment by specially trained paramedics. There are also very detailed educational and quality improvement components to help assure that the system maintains a high level of patient care and provider proficiency.

We think this is an exciting and appropriate role for both paramedics and emergency physicians to address a health care need not just in Jackman, but in many other rural and remote parts of Maine.

I appreciate the opportunity to share this with you and am working to be “in the room” during your work session if I can be of assistance with any questions.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and support of LD 1290.