



Genevieve McDonald

P.O. Box 253

Stonington, ME 04681

Phone: (207) 266-5113

Genevieve.McDonald@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

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**Testimony of Representative Genevieve McDonald
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
Presenting L.D. 1605**

An Act To License Ambulance Drivers Who Are Not Licensed To Provide Emergency Medical Services

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, I am Representative Genevieve McDonald of Maine House District 134 and I am testifying before you today as the sponsor of **L.D. 1605, An Act To License Ambulance Drivers Who Are Not Licensed To Provide Emergency Medical Services.**

Ambulance drivers carry out life-saving duties by assuring that patients arrive swiftly and safely to a medical treatment center in the event of an emergency. They place themselves in harm's way arriving at the scene of car accidents, fires, domestic violence disputes, and a multitude of other emergency situations. In addition to driving, ambulance operators often assist with moving and lifting patients. While not trained as emergency medical technicians, ambulance drivers **are** emergency medical service personnel. Yet, Maine law remains ambiguous, both in quantifying non-EMT ambulance drivers, and in granting them the same protections and privileges as their EMT counterparts.

A licensing system for non-EMT ambulance drivers would create a mechanism to quantify drivers so that we know how many operators there are. It would also create a pathway by which we can explicitly include non-EMT ambulance drivers in legal language such as defines eligibility for EMS death benefits.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I am happy to answer questions from the committee.

District 134 Cranberry Isles, Deer Isle, Frenchboro, Isle au Haut, North Haven, Southwest Harbor, Stonington, Swans Island, Tremont and Vinalhaven, plus the unorganized territory of Marshall Island Township