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Testimony of Rep. Kristen Cloutier in support of
LD 526, An Act to Provide Funding to Emergency Medical Services Organizations
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Good morning Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. Please accept this testimony in support of **LD 526, An Act to Provide Funding to Emergency Medical Services Organizations**.

LD 526 provides a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$25,000,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 to the Department of Public Safety to ensure that emergency medical services that are at risk of leaving their service areas remain accessible to their respective communities.

In the 130th Legislature, we [passed legislation](#) that reaffirmed the importance of our emergency medical services across the state and established a Blue Ribbon Commission to further study the use of emergency medical services in Maine.

The [report](#) that emerged from the Blue Ribbon Commission notes that reimbursements for emergency medical services are not on par with the cost of providing those services and that the current subsidies we provide are insufficient. Further, the commission states that there is a deficiency of \$70 million in funding each year for the next five years for transporting emergency medical services across the state.

Increasing funding is among the first three recommendations highlighted in the report.

We each have our own personal story or know of others who have stories about the crucial care received during an emergency situation. Our communities should not have to worry that their most vital services—emergency medical services—are in danger of being eliminated.

It's our job to make sure these lifesaving services remain available.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rep. Kristen S. Cloutier
Assistant House Majority Leader

District 94: Part of Lewiston