



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton in support of  
LD 526, An Act to Provide Funding to Emergency Medical Services Organizations  
Before the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee*

Good morning, Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. My name is Holly Eaton, and I represent House District 15, which includes the communities of Brooklin, Deer Isle, Frenchboro, Marshall Island, Southwest Harbor, Stonington, Swan's Island, Tremont, Eagle Island Township, Isle au Haut and Vinalhaven. I write to you today in support of **LD 526, An Act to Provide Funding to Emergency Medical Services Organizations**.

Last year, the Blue-Ribbon Commission To Study Emergency Medical Services in the State released its findings and recommendations. One of the big takeaways from the report of the Commission, for me, is that "EMS services in Maine are at the edge of a cliff, or over it..."

This is true for rural communities like ours in Hancock County. Two years ago, there was a car crash on MDI which injured five people. Despite having three EMS providers in the area, only one ambulance was available. Two ambulances were called in from Bangor, which is an hour away, and a LifeFlight helicopter was called in as well.

I share this with you as just one example of what our rural first responders are dealing with and why I fully support the bill before you this morning. In the event of an emergency, we cannot leave areas of our state without access to adequate emergency medical services.

Thank you for your attention. Please let me know if you have any questions that you would like me to answer at the work session.

District 15: Brooklin, Deer Isle, Eagle Island Township, Frenchboro, Southwest Harbor, Stonington, Swan's Island, Tremont, Isle au Haut, Vinalhaven