



Testimony in Support of

LD 1515, An Act to Fund Delivery of Emergency Medical Services

and

LD 1701, Resolve, to Reestablish and Continue the Work of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State

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Community Health Options is a nonprofit CO-OP health insurance company based in Lewiston. We exist for the benefit of our members and our mission which is to provide affordable, high-quality benefits that promote health and wellbeing. We offer health insurance to individuals and small and large employers as well as health plan administration to self-insured organizations through our Pioneer ASO.

We are here today to express our strong support for LD 1515 and LD 1701 as together these bills would provide a critical and immediate infusion of funding to the state's emergency medical services system and ensure that the important work of the Blue Ribbon Commission continues to examine and make recommendations on the structure, support and delivery of emergency medical services informed by a broad and expert stakeholder group.

Emergency medical services are both a part of our public emergency response system and part of our health care system. Community Health Options has followed the work of the Blue Ribbon Commission and our Chief Operating Officer has been a member of a separate stakeholder group that was first convened at the direction of the 129th Legislature¹ to review public and private reimbursement rates for ambulance services.^{2 3} Based on the recommendations of that stakeholder group we have supported legislation before the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee and the Health and Human Services Committee regarding private health insurance reimbursement and MaineCare reimbursement reforms in 2021⁴ and again this year that propose solutions to sustainable funding for emergency medical services.

¹ [LD 2105, Public Law 2019, Chapter 668](#)

² Final Report of the Maine EMS LD 2105 Subcommittee, February 1, 2021 *available at* <https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/6562>

³ 2020 Report of the Stakeholder Group Regarding LD 1258's EMS Financial Health Committee *available at* <https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/9667>

⁴ [LD 1258, Public Law 202, Chapter 241](#) which enacted some of the recommendations of the LD 2105 Subcommittee and reestablished the stakeholder group requiring the group to review issues related to financial health and costs of ambulance service providers and the delivery of services by ambulance service providers in this State.



We commend the work of the Blue Ribbon Commission and the separate Stakeholder Group on financial health of ambulance services for all of their good work examining the issues facing our EMS system and for proposing a range of thoughtful solutions over the last few years, including the two bills before you today. We urge the committee to support LD 1515 and LD 1701 to help to fund and continue examining these lifesaving services.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments.