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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333



MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

J. SAM HURLEY
DIRECTOR

May 21, 2023

Dear EMS colleagues,

On behalf of the Maine EMS Board, Office, and Medical Direction and Practices Board (MDPB), it is our pleasure to wish each of you a Happy EMS Week. We are excited to celebrate each of you throughout the year, but it is important to acknowledge this week as one where we encourage the entire community to celebrate you too. Thanks to Governor Mills, May 21-27, 2023, has been proclaimed as Emergency Medical Services Week in the State of Maine and the national theme of *EMS Week: Where Emergency Care Begins* was adopted.

As you're well aware, EMS answers the call, day or night, no matter the conditions, many of which can be dangerous and emotionally challenging. Many Mainers do not understand or even comprehend the difficulties and challenges associated with this work; however, Maine EMS clinicians perform – without fail – day in and day out. Maine EMS wants to emphasize that without your incredible work, our patients would truly be at a loss. Timely intervention from our out-of-hospital clinicians, before a patient reaches the emergency department, can make all the difference. We also mustn't forget the compassionate work that is provided by EMS clinicians to those who are transported between facilities, their home, hospice, and other settings as well as their families.

EMS in Maine almost functions exclusively in the background, where many of our neighbors don't fully understand or value the work until our services are needed. We are optimistic that with the implementation of the *Plan for a Sustainable EMS System in the State of Maine: A Vision for 2035*, we can begin making a difference. We appreciate the countless hours of training and preparation required to be prepared for whatever comes your way. No matter whether you are a career or volunteer EMS professional, working for a public or private entity, Maine EMS clinicians give back to their communities far more than they take. It's not just a job – it is dedication to our fellow mankind to make sure we do everything possible to save lives.

Most importantly, thank you. Thank you for being kind, compassionate, dedicated, and driven to provide the residents of, and visitors to, the State of Maine with the highest quality emergency medical services in the world. You really are the best.

Thank you,

Brent Libby
Chair, Maine EMS Board

J. Sam Hurley, MPH, EMPS, NRP
Director, Maine EMS

J. Matthew Sholl, MD, MPH
State EMS Medical Director

● **Excellence** ● **Support** ● **Collaboration** ● **Integrity** ●

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