



## **Critical Alert Successfully Lobbies Maine Legislature to Pass Bill that Removes Radio Paging Service Providers from MUSF Funding Obligations**

*Company sets precedent for efforts to remove Federal Universal Service Fund requirements as well as other states' USF mandatory payments.*

Westbrook, Maine (May 13, 2014) – Critical Alert Systems, the third-largest paging provider in the U.S., played an integral role in the passage of LD 1479, a law that strikes the provision that radio paging services make mandatory payments into the Maine Universal Service Fund (MUSF). Critical Alert lobbied the Maine legislature for nearly two years to amend legislation that required radio paging carriers to contribute into the MUSF despite the fact that paging companies do not receive any benefit from the MUSF. The Maine House and Senate recently overrode Governor Paul LePage's veto of LD 1479 and the new legislation will take effect in July 2014.

"It was a mistake to have radio paging services included in the MUSF from the beginning – paging carriers were contributing to a fund from which they received no benefit. The time had come to remove this funding obligation that impacted our Maine customers," said Critical Alert President and COO Ted McNaught. "Because of a Fairpoint request for MUSF support, we anticipate we would have been looking at an increase of up to 10 percent in our MUSF contribution if this legislation had not been successful."

According to McNaught, who is also the current President of the Critical Messaging Association, this precedent-setting Maine decision serves as a bellwether for future efforts to remove other states' USF burden from paging carriers. It also has significance at the Federal level, where future Universal Service Fund increases could cripple paging companies, forcing them to impose large increases to their customers.

"I urge other paging companies to look for opportunities to make formal remarks and to take a position when their State Legislature is reviewing their Universal Service Fund," notes McNaught. "And, I welcome other industry leaders in the continued effort to remove the Federal USF obligation that has the potential to have a dramatic negative impact on our companies and customers."

### **About Critical Alert Systems**

Critical Alert designs and delivers the most technologically advanced, easy-to-use nurse call solutions on the market. Using native middleware, our CommonPath™ nurse call allows clinicians to enhance their workflows, lower costs, improve staff performance, and raise patient satisfaction. Our systems capture and store all events and patient interactions allowing hospitals to generate relevant and customizable reporting with real-time dashboards. Through its paging services, Critical Alert provides fast and reliable critical messaging for emergency medical and disaster response teams in 13 states in New England and the central southeastern U.S. More information is available at [www.criticalalert.com](http://www.criticalalert.com).

# # #