

April 29, 2018

Senator Michael Carpenter  
Representative Donna Bailey  
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
100 State House Station  
State House, Room 438  
Augusta, ME 04333

*Re: LD 1535, An Act To Correct Errors and Inconsistencies Related to the Maine Uniform Probate Code and To Make Other Substantive Changes*

Dear Senator Carpenter, Representative Bailey, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Kile Pelletier. I live in Fort Kent, and I am a person with a disability. I help co-train people on supported decision-making.

Supported decision-making is important because people with a disability can make their own decisions. This way, their decision can be heard. With supported decision-making, people with disabilities can make choices with assistance like everyone else.

When I wanted to buy a car, I asked people about their opinions. I had questions about types of cars, the purchasing process, and my finances. I spoke to my mom, dad, and friends. They feel comfortable helping me to make decisions, and they back me up. I'm my own person, so it is important that I can make my own decision. I didn't want someone to make the choice for me.

It's important that judges see options other than just guardianship. People with disabilities do things differently, so it's important that there are multiple options.

I ask that you please include supported decision-making in the probate code. Our decisions are important, just like those of everyone else.

Sincerely,  
Kile Pelletier