

May 3, 2019

Senator Geoff Gratwick
Representative Patty Hymanson
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 1377, An Act To Enhance and Improve the Maine Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board and To Establish an Independent Oversight Panel To Review Deaths of and Serious Injuries to Persons with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism

Dear Senator Gratwick, Representative Hymanson, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services;

My name is Sarah Trites. I live in Sabattus and I am a member of DD Partners for Positive Change. I am here to testify against LD 1377.

I am against it because it eliminates the freedom to choose what people with developmental disabilities should have for services. I believe that it is important to have a voice in this process, because just like you, we all should have a say about the choices that affect our lives. It is wrong to have other people, in this case mostly providers of services, to dictate what the lives of people with developmental disabilities should look like.

I also can't think of a reason why the MSOAB is requesting to have access to the EIS system. Again, I am asking myself, why most peoples' information is protected by the law, while mine does not seem important or valuable enough to have the same protection.

I hope that you carefully consider my input while you make your determination re LD 1377.

Sincerely,
Sarah Trites