

Deirdre Sulka Meister
PORTLAND
LD 536

Esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Deirdre Sulka/Meister I live in Portland Maine.

I'm urging you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 536 An Act to Provide Natural Organic Reduction Facilities for Maine Residents for the Conversion of Human Remains to Soil.

I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2013 at the age of 42. I am luck and grateful to still be alive 10 years later. I didn't think it would be possible when I was diagnosed with cancer but I have seen my child graduate from high school AND collage and blossom into a wonderful young adult. I have shifting list of things I'd like to do while I'm still here. Some things on the bucket list i've given up on - I don't think I will ever get that black belt in Aikido and I likely won't live to see grandchildren. Some things I've done - I built a stone wall and am learning to paint, And there is one thing on my bucket list that I would like for after I die. To return to the earth in the most ecological way possible.

Living with a terminal illness I have researched the the options available. Natural organic reduction seems like the best option for me from both an environmental and spiritual perspective. I have seen NOR become legal in other states and hope that i live long enough that I can die knowing that my body no longer needed, can be transformed into nourishment - feeding the web of life on this planet that has sustained me.

Thank you.