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LD 51

Due to another commitment pertaining to persons with intellectual disabilities or autism in Maine I was not able to attend the public hearing on LD 51 today. I am writing in order to urge passage of the LD 51, principally because of the increased oversight it will provide to persons under public guardianship. I well remember the death of Norman F., a person with intellectual disabilities, who was under public guardianship. Norman's full name was mentioned in the press but I have chosen not to use his last name. He died in August 2019. I have always believed that the state guardian fumbled in his duties in this case by not attending a person centered planning meeting prior to Norman moving to a new residence. Specifically adding "adults subject to public guardianship" to the jurisdiction of the Oversight board is a step in the right direction. Too often there is a conflict of interest, or at least the appearance of a conflict of interest, when a person under DHHS guardianship has a catastrophic event occur. It is a fox guarding the henhouse problem. LD 51 addresses this issue.

Thank you for your attention to this.