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Gouldsboro
LD 496

I am a parent and court appointed guardian of a young adult with special needs.

When he was a child he ran away into a wooded area and I needed help to find him. He didn't know the danger and wouldn't answer to his name being called.

Our neighbors, the fire and police, and many people I didn't even know came quickly to search and he was found before it got dark.

Everyone understands what it means when a child is lost.

It may not be as well understood when an adult is in a similar situation, even those with special needs or disabilities.

I would like to hope that if my son went missing today as a grown man we would have the public's help looking out for him, since he would be considered a vulnerable adult.

This bill would be potentially lifesaving to a person in a group home, mental hospital, or psychiatric ward. It is well known that timing is extremely important in finding a missing person. Not every one of them will go missing, but this affects the safety and well being of all of these people and their families.

Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 496