

Alison Truesdale
Yarmouth
LD 613

Dear Members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Alison Truesdale, and I live in Yarmouth. I support LD 613.

My mother died in 2018 after a long protracted illness. I am speaking for her today, because I know she would support this bill wholeheartedly. My mother had a near-death experience after the birth of my brother. She told us she left her body and saw a white light that filled her with peace. She wanted to go toward the light, but a nurse slapped her face to bring her back. As a result of her experience, my mother was never afraid of dying, and she was very clear with me and my siblings that she didn't want to be kept alive when it was clear her time had come. Unfortunately, my mother was not able to take advantage of Maine's Death with Dignity Act. She would ask for medication to help her die, but no one could help her.

My mother believed, and I believe, that we all have a right to control our own dying process, and that there is no need for people to suffer needlessly as my mother did. LD 613 allows people to die on their own terms, with the assistance of their physician. It cuts through the (in my opinion) arbitrary waiting period before a physician can give his or her patient medication to hasten the dying process. This is a bill that enables physicians to act with mercy. How can anyone deny a dying and suffering person the relief and peace they seek because of a rule about a waiting period? Please pass LD 613 to relieve suffering. Thank you.