

Laurinda Cartier
Bangor
LD 613

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RE: LD 613

Dear Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Laurinda (Laurie) Cartier, and I live in Bangor, Maine. I am writing regarding the bill, LD 613 "An Act to Amend the Maine Death with Dignity Act to Ensure Access by Qualified Patients." I am in favor of this amendment and hope that you will be too!

I am now 74 years old. In my 30s I had cancer and radiation treatments. The treatments cured my cancer, but they also left me with some huge neurological issues that affect my current lifestyle. At this time, I am not in unmanageable pain, nor does this affect my ability to do many of the things I enjoy. My quality of life is good. Although I do all I can to combat the effects of the radiation, there is a continuous and noticeable decline in my mobility as well as other functions affected. Should I contract another illness deemed to be terminal, it has always been a comfort to me to know that Maine has our Death with Dignity Act and I could take advantage of that if the need is there.

This amendment to the Death with Dignity Act would, in my opinion, make choices easier for me and all others who might want to use this option. My physician would be able to provide this care at their discretion in the timing right for me, so that if I were to decline quickly, I would be able to use this option without waiting. It is an even greater comfort to know that this could be true for everyone in Maine if this amendment is passed.

Thank you for reading my testimony. I hope you will vote Yes on LD 613.