

TO: The Health and Human Services Committee

RE: LD 613

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I am a Maine senior (born July 4, 1946) and I am writing in support of LD613.

LD 613 is a critically important amendment to the Maine Death with Dignity Act. It is important for at least these three reasons: 1) It gives those who are already fully qualified to receive MAID in Maine easier access to the benefits of the law by allowing the flexibility to waive the current 17 day administrative gap between eligibility for MAID and actually being able to receive it; 2) It allows Maine citizens who are terminally ill with a 6 month death prognosis more control over the time of their deaths and aids in preventing the current injustice of people dying without the support of MAID because they couldn't survive the 17 day waiting period. 3) It restores to physicians the full exercise of their medical knowledge and clinical expertise by taking the best care possible of their patients up to the end.

Maine Death with Dignity was passed because increasing numbers today, including this writer, want to exercise whatever agency we can in planning for a good death. This includes the best medical care and clinical practice possible within the actual timelines of our particular deaths. The increased agency facilitated by LD613 may help us with

avoiding pain, and accessing comfort and joy with loved ones, more of whom would be able to arrive on time from afar. This amendment to Maine Death with Dignity also allows for more serenity in one's final years and months because one is less afraid about suffering, and being alone at the end of one's life.

I believe LD 613 should be passed immediately to provide more timely access to this good law and to give more Maine elders the possibility of having more deaths with more dignity.