

Bob Roemmich  
Bangor  
LD 613

Committee members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

I am writing this testimony in OPPOSITION to LD 613 from a personal perspective.

I grew up as an adoptee in a home that that many would have deemed normal. I spent my life growing up playing like all kids do, loved by their parents, and looking to pursue my dreams when I got older.

In my high school years, my mother started to show signs of depression. She went to many different counselors over the course of many years. Some of those counselors, in retrospect, helped her and others did not. When she relied on her core belief and faith in God, she would come out of her depression. I know. I had to help her and remind her many times. There were other times that I was not present with her that she would dip back into depression. Once my wife caught her trying to OD on pills and wine taken together.

Here's my point: If this bill had been in place at those times, she could have gone into her doctor and told them that she didn't want to live any more and the doctor would have been able to prescribe a that to assisted suicide, after all, she had tried it before, right? But this bill before you was not available to her. Thank God it wasn't! After those episodes of depression were dealt with, she would go on to have a life that impacted others and encouraged others, allowed other people to encourage her. She passed away peacefully in 2017.

If you pass this bill, it will not help the people, you represent, to realize the gravity of the decision that they are making. I sympathize with people who are going through pain. But I didn't desire assisted suicide to begin with. Why remove the restrictions on this "procedure", when many, patients and doctors alike, can and will use this bill (or law) to assist someone to kill themselves, when if the person would wait the current limits, could find help or it may be that they die peaceably, if it is their time?

Thank you for your time.