

Charles Jacobs
Monmouth
LD 613

Chairs and Members of the Committee:

I am Charlie Jacobs, a resident of Monmouth, although I am in the process of moving to Hallowell. I am testifying in support of LD 613, An Act to Amend the Maine Death with Dignity Act to ensure Access by Qualified Patients.

My wife was diagnosed with stage 4 uterine cancer last July. She was given 4 to 6 months to live. In August she decided to use the Death with Dignity provisions of Maine law. With the support of her family and many friends, and following the law to the letter, she passed away in September. Her concern from the beginning was that after she had gone through the process, including the waiting period at the end, she would not be able to self-administer the medicine.

As it turned out, she was able to self-administer, and she died a peaceful death with her family at her bedside.

But her fears could easily have come to pass.

Now, looking back on it, I don't believe the 17 day waiting period at the end of the process is necessary, and it could easily deprive many people of the peaceful death they desire. I believe this is a very important change that does not weaken the safe guards in the statute.

So I urge the committee to pass out LD 613 Ought to Pass.

Thank you.