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Written Testimony for LD 613:
An Act to Amend the Maine Death with Dignity Act to Ensure
Access by Qualified Patients

Due to my work schedule, I am unable to attend the hearing on April 11, 2025. Please accept this brief testimony in support of LD 613. I am grateful to my step-daughter, Sarah Pfeiffer-McCarthy, and brother-in-law, Peter Pfeiffer, for offering their in-person testimony today on this very important issue. I also thank Phil and Linda Coupe for their presence at the hearing in support of their dear friend, Rob.

My late husband, Rob Pfeiffer, was one of the first Mainer's to access Death with Dignity on November 29, 2019. Having access to this option greatly reduced his anxiety about living with a terminal illness. He wanted to maintain his dignity and avoid being bedridden and dependent on the care of others as the cancer and pain accelerated.

DWD gave him the conscious choice over his end of life process which helped him to relax, enjoy time with loved ones, say his goodbyes and die on his terms. However, there was a delay with the medication arriving at the pharmacy in Portland so the administrative waiting period added additional time once the medicine was in his possession. He rallied, but the fatigue he experienced from the additional wait time was wearing on him both physically and emotionally. It may have been good for those who hated to say good-bye, but it was hard on him as he was exhausted and ready to go.

I support LD 613 which offers the terminal patient less wait time and reduces unnecessary suffering, anxiety and a feeling of more control. Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of this very important legislative initiative.

Most Sincerely,
Julianna Pfeiffer