



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

April 11, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

I'm Carroll Conley of the Christian League of Maine, advocating for the Biblical perspective held by Maine's churches that have historically opposed doctor-prescribed suicide on the grounds of the sanctity of human life.

I remember dealing with a physician-assisted suicide bill during my first legislative session at the League. I met the bill's sponsor in the capitol halls, and he asked me if I would read his bill. He relayed to me that his personal experiences and frustrations with the medical community motivated him to pursue this course of action. I could see then that this was an honorable, compassionate man looking for a solution to a very real and complex problem.

While the controversy has continued over the years across our country regarding doctor-prescribed suicide, many on both sides of this hotly debated issue have one significant thing in common—compassion: compassion for those nearing the end of their time on this earth and, of course, compassion for those nearest to them.

Certainly, my faith demands compassion for those facing end-of-life issues, but I do not believe physician-prescribed death is the answer. Doctors still cannot accurately predict a patient's death. The AMA Journal recently reported that lifespan forecasts have a 30% error rate. End-of-life palliative care and pain management are the best alternative. They are readily available and proven to be highly beneficial.

Sadly, doctor-prescribed death did narrowly pass here in Maine; while I was in opposition to this, I was thankful for the thoughtful rulemaking and regulations Gov. Mills and her administration provided. Among those provisions was one of the most essential safeguards for this process: a waiting period. Now, advocates for physician-assisted suicide want to remove that safeguard.

This bill would blur the line between natural death and medical manslaughter. The more clearly and brightly that line is kept, the better off and safer we all will be. Please vote ought not to pass on LD 613.