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LD 613

Hello to you all in the Health and Human Services Committee.

Thank you for your services. I'd like to share with you about how important it is to pass this Act LD 613, so that physicians will have the ability to waive the waiting period(s) for those whose conditions are rapidly deteriorating.

My late husband was a cancer patient who fought his medical battles very aggressively to his end at 57 years old. He was also an Air Force Jet Captain Veteran, and his remains are buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

His condition was in an advanced state of decline, but then a very serious change in the last three days took his life. I believe that had if we had Maine Death with Dignity and this Act at that time, it may have helped him, as he would not have survived the waiting period. He definitely suffered needlessly.

I strongly believe that people should be given the option to make this end of life choice, the same way we help our pets at the very end of their lives, and to stop their horrific suffering in a dignified way. My husband died on Christmas Day 2018. Just a few months later "Death with Dignity" became legal in this great State of Maine.

Now, considering his experiences, and having been witness to those of many other patients, as a Healthcare Professional myself, LD 613 will change the Quality of Life & Death for Mainers, thus making it possible for physicians to use their clinical judgement in the best interest of their patients.

We are all human beings here and this should be our right. I urge you to please pass LD 613 for myself, my family, my friends and all of my fellow Mainers, who should be able to live and die with DIGNITY.

Thank You!
Deborah