Renee Sarett Maine Health/Portland/Eliot LD 613

I am a physician who is practicing as a consultant for MAID/DWD for our Maine patients who are suffering at the end of life. I currently have a patient who is dying of blood cancer on hospice and is requesting MAID. I don't have any availability in my clinic for several weeks and by that time, he will have lost mental capacity to ingest. There are many barriers to a ingestion including logistics, travel, and especially our ability to predict with precision when a patient will likely lose capacity to make this monumental decision. I deeply support an amendment to waive the waiting period in these special circumstances. I recognize the desire to protect patients from making an impulsive and regrettable decision, however, the vast majority of my patients electing this medical procedure have thought through this well in advance and have spoken to their loved ones about their choice. Please allow this exception in order to continue to practice medicine compassionately, safely and responsibly.