



April 25, 2025

Senator Henry Ingwerson  
Representative Michelle Meyers  
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

**RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of LD 617 "An Act to Amend the Maine Death with Dignity Act to Ensure Access by Qualified Patients"**

Dear Senator Ingwerson, Representative Meyers and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services,

I am writing in support of LD 617, An Act to Amend the Maine Death with Dignity Act to Ensure Access by Qualified Patients, on behalf of the Maine Psychological Association (MePA).

One of the greatest concerns of all persons is to be struck by a terminal illness for which all curative treatments have been explored, there is no expectation of survival, and the prospect is untreatable pain and suffering.

Psychologists who work with older persons, or those suffering with cancer and other diseases, are often called upon to provide support and mental tools to assist through hospice care or counseling to help dying persons cope with their anticipated future and decisions about the end of life.

Fortunately, persons in Maine with a terminal illness may qualify for end-of-life medication to allow their personal control over the last chapter of their life. To rightly prevent inappropriate use of this procedure, a waiting period has been required before the self-administered medication can be given.

However, since one thing that is not known is the nearness or quickness of dying, an arbitrary waiting period cannot fit all cases.

This bill allows an attending physician to waive a portion or all of a waiting period for qualified patients to access end-of-life medication based on the qualified patient's condition and the attending physician's medical opinion regarding the best interests of the qualified patient.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Matranga".

Jeff Matranga, PhD  
President