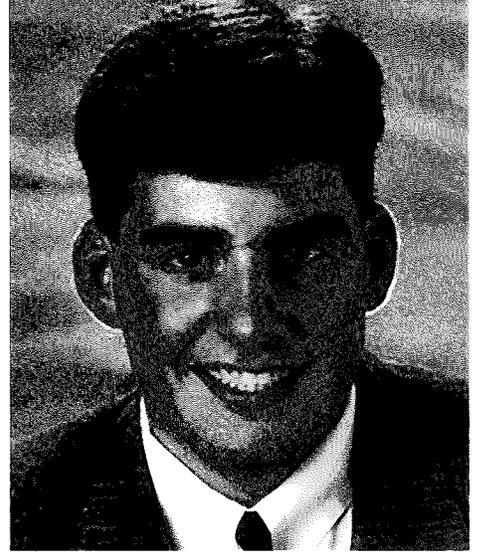


Save Lives, Don't Pass LD 2214 As Proposed

Senator Rotundo, representative Sachs, and esteemed members of the appropriations and financial affairs committee, my name is Joe H. Pickering. My wife Theresa and I wanted to show you a beloved photo of one of our three wonderful children Chris Pickering. Unfortunately, Chris is a memory an unnecessary memory. And that is why I am here. We don't want anyone else to have an unnecessary memory. Therefore, please do not pass the state's supplemental budget bill LD 2214 as proposed. It totally lacks vision and compassion. It tragically omits and/or delays for another year the waiver for "mental illness" for the federal the IMD discriminatory exclusion law. What is Governor Mills intention? Maine has had a wavier for substance abuse for about two years, why the inconsistency? Aren't they both co-occurring disorders? These are people with serious brain disorders! Delaying or deferring these vital life-giving services means more homelessness, prison time or plots in the cemeteries. Has Governor Mills administration estimated what the human and financial cost will be to all by not applying for this waiver? **IF** so, what is it? **IF** not why? **IF** the \$1.3 Million dollar match was in Governor Mills budget **IT** would gain over \$10 million federal dollars and more importantly vital services. Maine needs to bring some life and hope to those who live 24/7 their torture and families torture with severe brain disorders. Furthermore, there is a price that our society pays both in economic and human cost? Or have we already forgotten??



A walk-in center would have done zero for our late son Chris. He did not have "problems." He had severe schizophrenia! (Anosognosia) people who are in need of an act team are incapable of accessing a walk-in center, their illness prevents them from understanding their needs. Former Senator John Nutting makes many fine points which we concur re: restoring eliminated act teams and creating more statewide with adequate state support so that they can properly serve those with serious brain disorders and our communities etc.

But more than programs Maine needs an innovative legal framework for these programs. Maine needs to study other far more advanced states such as Michigan's outpatient first program (on video shown on the NSSC website) which is supported by their public advocacy groups as well as California. Why? Our beloved late son Chris who had severe schizophrenia. Had years of long decline before he ultimately died in a house fire. We believe that Maine's outdated and backward laws and policies based on that outdated discriminatory federal government exclusion law helped create his decline which led to his death. How? Instead of treatment before tragedy. Chris got tragedy without the necessary needed treatment! Maine state legislature please do not allow anymore sad memories to anyone!! Haven't we had enough unnecessary pain in Maine?

Testimony By

Joe and Theresa Pickering 13 Pond St. Bangor.

THE BODY IS ONE!

DOES THE WORLD LIVE IN MISINFORMATION ?
WHERE STIGMA PARTIES WITH DISCRIMINATION ?
HEALTH CARE TEACHES THERE A HEAD AND BODY
IS HEALTH CARE RIGHT OR WRONG AND A BIT HAUGHTY ?
CHORUS

HAVE YOU SEEN A HEAD BOB DOWN THE STREET ?
CAN A HEADLESS BODY SAY HELLO WHEN YOU MEET ?
NOT EVEN IN A CARTOON COULD THIS BE TRUE
WAKE UP EVERYONE THE BODY'S ONE NOT TWO !

LOOK IN A HALL MIRROR WHAT DO YOU SEE ?
FROM HEAD TO TOE YOUR HUMAN BODY !
HEALTH CARE LIVES A HEAD AND BODY FABLE \
WITHIN A MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH LABEL

TREATING BRAIN DISORDERS AND ADDICTIONS
DIFFERENT THAN OTHER HEALTH AFFLICTIONS
FILLS MORE JAILS AND CEMETARIES
PROMOTES PREMATURE OBITUARIES

LIKE THE N WORD SO DESTRUCTIVE TO OUR NATION
BELIEFS THAT KILL DESERVE CONDEMNATION
SHATTER THIS SILENCE ON BRAIN DISCRIMINATION
SHATTER THIS SILENCE OR FACE RECRIMINATION !

OUR BODIES ARE CREATED BY THE DIVINE
BIO, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND SOCIAL DESIGN
CURE YOUR ILLNESS DON'T TREAT YOUR BODY AS TWO
CALL IN DOCTOR DATA TO FINALLY CURE YOU !

UPDATE HEALTH CARE WORDS AND TERMS TOO
SOLEY BASED ON SCIENCE BEGIN ANEW !!
WORLD SHATTER THIS SILENCE END WORD VIOLENCE !!
WORLD SHATTER THIS SILENCE END WORD VIOLENCE !!