

I

**LD 532 An Act to Protect Health Care Workers by
Addressing Assaults in Health Care Settings**

Thankyou members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

My name is Carlene Mahaffey. My pronouns are She/hers. I am here on my own time as a current resident of Gardiner, former resident of Lewiston, and just wanted to say proudly voted for Representative Adbi while I lived there -

I am testifying in opposition to LD 532.

I do no deny that people are being hurt - but the hurt is not one-sided.

I know a lot of people who've experienced violence and hurt at the hands of those who are there to "care" for them - but I don't want to talk about that here because everyone has stories of hurt. Who are we to say that one person's experience of hurt is more valid than another's...

I wanted to use my time to ask you to think about the consequences a bill like this could have.

I ask you to ask yourselves - is a bill like this just a knee-jerk reaction to very emotional situations?

Is a bill like this just exploiting another complicated situation? Further deepening the Us Vs. Them by pitting one side against the other?

Is a bill like this taking a stance and declaring one side to be good and the other to be bad? And in doing so, does it disregard the facts, the details of the situation, and the preceding events that lead to the tragedy?

A topic like this is heavy - laden with the stories of awful tragedies that occur during the delivery of "help" and the receiving of "help".

I ask you to please pause and consider the implications and probable unconsidered consequences a bill like this could have.

I ask you to vote ought not to pass.

Thank you

Carlene Mahaffey