

Geoff Gratwick  
Bangor  
LD 1582

Geoff Gratwick MD, Bangor  
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Testimony in Opposition to LD 1582

Good morning, Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee. I am Geoff Gratwick, a retired physician, former member of this committee, and I have had the pleasure of knowing most of you.

"First, do no harm."

The Legislature should not practice medicine.

New medicines require careful study before they become available for use. This consists of basic research, well controlled trials, and continued follow up of both good and bad results. The FDA requires multiple steps before approving a new medicine. There are many instances in which a medicine, initially promising, had to be withdrawn because of unanticipated side effects.

Severe refractory depression is a major illness. Those without proper training and experience should not claim that they know how to treat it pharmacologically. Up-to-Date (an excellent online source of medical information) lists 15 new treatments for depression of 'potential benefit' and an additional 8 (including psilocybin) which are available only through research protocols. The Legislature is in no position to judge any of these potentially promising treatments. This must be left to the scientific community.

This bill is a poor idea.

Thank you, Geoff Gratwick