

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **lynne tobin** <lynnetobin@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Apr 9, 2019 at 8:55 AM

Subject: Testimony Submission for LD 1313

To: <HHS@legislature.maine.gov>

Senator Gratwick, Representative Hymanson and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

My name is Lynne Tobin. I live in West Boothbay Harbor, ME.

Before moving to Maine, I worked for two hospices in CT. I have witnessed hundreds of deaths, some of whom have been gentle and relatively peaceful. There were some for whom hospice care did not go well, and these deaths were miserable, excruciating and haunting.

This is a story about a terrible death. Izzy died this year, on February 1 of Multiple Myeloma. She had been in hospice for several months. Her type of Myeloma did not respond to the traditional treatments oncologists and radiation oncologists usually recommend. Even so, the doctors kept urging her to continue treatment until finally, she couldn't decide if the disease or the treatment was killing her. She went into hospice care, but just wanted the whole thing to be over. She'd had enough.

Many times she talked about Death with Dignity.

She wished Maine had an Aid-in-Dying bill in place, yet she felt she was in safe hands with hospice.

Eight days before she died, she fell and broke her hip.

Because her bedroom was upstairs, she was moved to a couch in the living room where the fall occurred.

She stayed on that couch for 4 days. Every time she was cleaned, changed or moved in any way, she was in excruciating pain.

How could I tell?

Her face was grimaced, her brow, deeply furrowed. She cried out, "please help me, please help." Sometimes, she called "Mama, Mama", her head thrashed back and forth, her eyes rolled. But mostly she just groaned.

Hospice didn't get her a hospital bed immediately. They didn't manage her pain, nor assess it adequately. She was not in safe hands. The way she died was miserable and avoidable.

Her suffering was horrible for her and horrible to witness.

I don't want to suffer like that. I don't want anyone to have to die like she did.

I urge you to vote OUGHT TO PASS for LD 1313

My own good death may depend on it. Yours might, too.

Lynne Tobin

18 Hodgdon Cove Rd.

West Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575