

Testimony in support
LD 1064 An Act To Advance Palliative Care Utilization in the State
April 1, 2021

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Karen Vachon and I am the Executive Director of Maine Right To Life, located in Auburn. I come before you today in support of LD 1064, An Act To Advance Palliative Care Utilization in the State, and I thank Representative Craven for sponsoring this bill.

Maine Right to Life is a state affiliate of the National Right To Life Committee. We are a non-profit organization founded to protect and uphold the dignity and worth of every human life from conception to natural death by making abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia socially, ethically, and legally unacceptable and to actively promote positive alternatives.

Facing a debilitating health condition takes a toll on everyone – the patient, family, friends and community. Having a compassionate and standardized palliative care team in Maine is a noble pursuit that promotes the human dignity of every human life.

Healthcare is daunting. A critical health diagnosis is overwhelming – not just the patient. Loved ones want to help and know where to turn. Educating Mainers about Palliative Care, and getting healthcare workers on the same page with an integrated care model, that appropriately reimburses the entire disciplinary team no matter where the patient receives their care is so important.

A well-crafted integrated palliative care team neither hastens nor postpones death; rather it affirms life and treats dying as a normal process, providing relief from pain or other distressing symptoms, integrating the physical, psychological, and spiritual aspects of patient care.

Passage of LD 1064 should make Maine proud. I encourage this committee to unanimously vote ought to pass! Thank you.

Hon. Karen Vachon
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