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Testimony for: "AN ACT CONCERNING COMPASSIONATE AID IN DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS."

IN SUPPORT of HB6645

Before the Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Submitted on: March 18, 2013

All logical and empathetic evidences lead to our support of HB6645 which allows individual freedom to choose and to plan the course of our death - it does not advocate murder or suicide as the opponents have suggested. The content of this bill advocates and support of what our society has been taught to do for generations: honor a dying person's last wish. The last wish for these terminally ill patients who support this bill happens to be dignity and compassion.

Terminally ill patients of capable minds can choose not to ask for and administer a drug to end his/ her life should that be of his/her choosing even when this bill is passed. Denying the rights to others just because one would not make that choice for oneself is an act of mental and moral dominance. Each of us should be able to choose for ourselves especially if those choices do not infringe on the freedom and liberty of others. Opponents of this bill have full rights to not make the choices of asking for/administering the drugs to end their own lives even when this bill is passed... it does not affect them one way or another.

In the last few years, we have lost almost all of our grandparents. Death bears a great sense of sorrow in itself, but seeing all parts of their body failing but their minds are conscious enough to know what is going on put greater pain into our hearts and for a prolonged amount of time. That is enough for us to know that if we're in their position and have a choice, we would have chosen a path that is all together different and more merciful for our family / caretakers. The pain and suffering aren't limited to the patients themselves; they are extended to the mental, physical and emotional exhaustion of their caretaking family members. We love our loved ones as much as they love us and know that we do not want to put that level of strain on them once our bodies have reach the point of irreparable deterioration.

We have always been responsible adults, made prudent plans for our lives, and tried our best to not put strains on family and friends. We are proud of that and having the rights to continually be the responsible people we strive to be for ourselves, for our friends/family, for our community, and most importantly for the rest of our lives is crucial for us. We plan our life's story, we plan our education, we plan our families, our finances, our insurances, and our burials - why can't we plan on ending our story on our own term? In conclusion, I urge you to support HB6645 and allow us to live our lives through the inspiration of Frank Sinatra and his words:

"For what is a man, what has he got? If not himself, then he has naught

To say the things he truly feels and not the words of one who kneels
The record shows I took the blows and did it my way.”