

Please accept my testimony AGAINST bill 6645.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding my concern about passing legislation for assisted suicide in this state. I think the source of many of the violent problems riddling our society today is that there is disregard and disrespect towards the preciousness of life. We need to move towards making all of our citizens feel valued, even those with disabilities, the elderly and the sick. People are not to be thrown away like trash if certain people, (or themselves) deem them to be useless or an inconvenience. My fear with this bill is that it sets a dangerous precedent. Doctors should be about preserving life and doing no harm. This bill goes against that. No doctor should be asked to help kill another. Let us expand what hospice and palliative care offers so that no one facing terminal illness has to fear being a burden or having terrible pain. Let them be comforted in their final days and made to know their life did matter.

My own mother died 3 days before her 62nd birthday of ALS (Lou Gherig's Disease). We valued every precious day we had together and she was able to do memorable things for her young grandsons so they would always remember "Grandma Honey". Those were the worst days of our lives but also the best in that we were able to share so many intimate things with each other. Life's journey also includes walking with those we love during our last days. Those our special days. We do not get to choose when we are born nor should we decide when we will die.

Please throw this bill out the window, not precious life.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christine S. Welton
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