

3/14/2014

I have some serious concerns and questions I'd like the legislature to consider before signing H.B.-5326. I will share them with you.

1.) If a pregnant woman is terminally ill, can she request aid in dying?

2.) In section 1(1), an adult is defined as a person who is 18 yrs.

or older. If an 18 yr. old requests aid in dying, it is only recommended in section 9(1), that next of kin be notified, but, "failure to do so shall not be a basis for denial of such request". I don't think any terminally ill 18 yr. old with living next of kin, should be allowed to make this decision without notifying them. I will add that in the Affordable Care Act, children can remain on their parents health insurance until age 26. So, I find it strange that an adult of 25 for example, needs parent approval, and signatures for health insurance, yet an 18 yr. old can make a choice of such magnitude as aided dying.

3.) After a patient has made the decision to accept aid in dying, he/she has the right to rescind that decision. If He does change his mind, but had already acquired the medication, how can we be sure this medication/poison is properly disposed of and doesn't get into the wrong hands? Section 12. Who will follow this up. Is the patient really allowed to personally acquire it and decide the time it is used? I would not trust a person under the duress of impending death, to take a poisonous dose of medicine into their own possession, unsupervised.

4.) In section 14(D), Health Care facilities can prohibit doctors who work there, from administering aid in dying, but must allow them to inform patients of their options outside the facility. So, in essence, the Dr. can offer the patient (in let's say a catholic, or private hospital), services deemed unethical by the facility.

5.) Lastly, and possibly my biggest concern, is this. Nowhere in this bill do I see it stated that spiritual counseling will be offered. I believe that in cases where a person's religious affiliation is noted in their records, spiritual advice and counseling should be offered.

Thank you for reading my testimony, and considering my questions and concerns regarding H.B.-5326, and quite honestly find this bill disturbing. I believe that life is a gift from God our creator; He shall alone decide when life is complete. I however realize that this is my opinion, and others may have a value systems that differ from my own.

Respectfully,

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