

To Whom It May Concern:

I support physician-assisted suicide. I don't know the specific limitations that this bill would impose on those who would choose to die this way, but for me personally it would be a great relief if I knew that someday I could ask a doctor to end my life. I am 64. I have lost both parents, my wife's parents, and other relatives to old age and disease. Only my father had the blessing of dying peacefully in his sleep. In all other cases, death was by "a thousand cuts", gradually losing physical and mental abilities, every week enduring more pain and illness, relentlessly losing authentic personality for that of a pathetic imitation. I don't want that. My wife doesn't want that. I remember having dinner with about ten of my relatives after my mother-in-law's memorial service. The conversation drifted toward "I don't want to go through that, and I don't want my family to go through it either. But what can we do about it? Well, there are videos on suicide." Attention was rapt. We all wanted to hear if there were a way to avoid the long, slow death – a way to avoid putting our children through weeks and months and years of tending to us – a way to prevent their memory of us from being twisted by our decay. That is why I support HB 5326. At the very least it would be a turning point in the right direction.

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