

Kate Kelly, B. A., B.Ed.

Re: No Assisted Suicide. Vote No on H.B. No. 5326

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing this letter to urge you to vote no on H.B. No. 5326.

In 2009, my mother died a painful death. But it wasn't from her condition or a disease. You see, my mother was starved and dehydrated to death with massive doses of morphine after she'd had a mild stroke. It had not mattered that she had been trying to speak and had indicated that she wanted water. The family member holding power of attorney, affirmed by a young doctor, had decided that it was time for her to die.

I watched my mother die, day and night for six days. She tried to fight, to wake up, but to no avail and she suffered. To use the vernacular of assisted suicide proponents, she did not get her choice.

If these terrible deaths happen when aid in dying (assisted-suicide and euthanasia) is not legal, what will happen if these practices are made legal? Doctors will have even more power to take away patient choice. If we can't stop the abuse now, how will we be able to stop the abuse then?

In 2009, I first published my mother's story, which can be viewed at <http://www.choiceillusion.org/p/hich/af4/dbch/af39/loch/f4/vsed.html> <http://www.choiceillusion.org/p/vsed.html> I have since been contacted by adult children in both the US and Canada whose parents were involuntarily starved and dehydrated to death.

I was thrilled to see last week vote in New Hampshire, where the House of Representatives voted down assisted suicide by a 3 to 1 margin, 219 to 66. I hope that your legislature will do the same.

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