

Laurie Beth Keller  
HB 5326

I have watched family members suffer from the excruciating final months of aggressive cancer and emphysema. I have seen situations first hand where the individual wish they had that choice and honestly, with as much as I knew I would miss them, I couldn't stand to see them struggle to breath and be in so much pain, to be confined to a bed waiting for the days to end. It is physically, emotionally, and financially straining for everyone involved, particularly the patient. To watch someone we love suffer day in and day out, to barely survive and have no quality of life but must hang on because the law won't allow them to die is inhumane. We give more courtesy and respect to our pets diagnosed with terminal diseases but we can't give the same courtesy and respect to a human being? I think the decision must be made by the individual or whomever has the legal right to make such decisions. I don't know what to say in the case of a minor.

While my faith says I am pro-life and that suicide is wrong, I also believe that it is wrong for government to make this decision for someone, just as it is wrong for government to decide on abortion for a woman. If the government agrees it is acceptable to take the life of a fetus, why is it not okay for someone who is suffering to decide to end their suffering? This is contradictory.

I can appreciate the need for guidelines for such practices so physician assisted suicide is not done flippantly. However I do not think this is the government's choice to make. Again, I am pro-life but I am also an advocate of smaller government. Just because a choice is right for me does not mean I have the right to make that choice for someone else.

Kind regards,  
Laurie Beth Keller  
Oxford, CT