

Testimony – H.B. 5326

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HB 5326 (AN ACT CONCERNING COMPASSIONATE AID IN DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS)

I find House Bill 5326 to be unnecessary and contrary not only to the physician's Hypocratic oath, that is, to protect LIFE, but also contrary to the dignity of the sick person. Giving oneself a death-yielding dose of drugs is not "death with dignity."

My own personal experience with my dying parents is testimony to this statement. Both my parents suffered from disabling illnesses but at no time did they express any desire to end their lives themselves. In fact, at 96 years of age, my father asked to have surgery to remove his cancer. Although surgery was not an option, certainly suicide was either. Rather suicide is a drastic expression of hopelessness. Don't we as a sons, daughters, fathers, mothers and friends want to be sources of hope to those we love, not bearers of doom and death?

In both my parents' cases, the period of time prior to their deaths was a gift to me, my siblings and family. It was a time in which we could freely express our love and appreciation for the life and upbringing given to us by our parents. Furthermore, it was a precious time for our friends to come forward and be there for us in any way they could. All of this was, and continues to be, an indescribable gift. None of this would have occurred had either parent chosen death as a means of escape from this life. In fact, suicide would have been a life-long agony for all of us.

I respectfully ask you to oppose H.B. 5326.

Thank you.

