

House Bill – 5326

Act concerning – Aid in Dying for Terminal Ill Patients

I would like to tell you my story regarding HB # 5326 and why I whole hearty support this bill. My mother, Dolores M. David, was a healthy active 78 year old when she was diagnosed with heart issues, needed heart surgery and a pace maker in July 2010. After this surgery her recovery was remarkable as she went home from the hospital and not into rehab. In October of 2010 my mother began to have some neurotically issues which we thought was from the blood thinners she was taking but to our shock she was diagnosed with Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)—also referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease. This disease was very aggressive and her quality of life diminished quickly. She lost her ability to speak, eat or walk by January 2011. I quit my job and took care of her 24 -7, fortunately she was able to communicate with the help of an I-PAD and a communicating program, during the next 6 months we talked about her disease, how her life had changed and how it's going to end. My mother was a very religious person, went to church every week so I made arrangements for our parish priest to visit her at least once a week. She was also a very proud woman; whenever she went anywhere she made sure she looked nice and proper, always. On June 16, 2011 she became ill and was placed in the hospital. At this time my mother asked me if this was the end for her. I explained that if that what she wants that we will make it happen. She gave me her signature “thumbs up”, (meaning that she was tired and ready to go to heaven). This of course a very difficult for all of my family, including my Dad and 2 brothers but we never expected it to be as painful as it was. For the next 25 days we endured watching my mother's life very slowly slip away. My parents were married for 61 year together for 63 and it was extremely painful for me to watch my Dad watch his wife and best friend dying. After 3+ weeks of this pain my husband realized that the pace maker is what was keeping my mother alive. After phone call to her cardiologist, we were told that the pace maker could only be prograded down to 30 (beats per minute) and not shut off completely and let my mother start her new life peacefully. So because this the next 8 hours was something no family should ever endure. We had to sit and watch my mother literally have her lungs full up with fluid and drown. She finally succumbed on July 11, 2011 at 11:11pm. - 25 days after she made the decision to start her new life. My mother did not want to die this way, especially having her loved suffer with her. No one wants to see their loved one's die; however my sad and bitter memories of that time in my life are still painful, mostly because it didn't have to happen that way. We as a society do not let our pets go through that much pain and suffering. Why as humans do we allow this to happen to ourselves? My mother could have and should have died peacefully and quickly the way she wanted. Please vote in HB 5326 and stop another family from going through this living hell.

Thank you for listening to my Mother's story.

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