

How I wish I did not have a personal experience that brings me to speak out in favor of Compassionate Aid in Dying but losing both parents in the last few years and seeing one die amid a nightmarish set of events and the other die with the support and help of hospice makes my testimony essential. It is still difficult to recall my mother's last month of life connected to machines she did not want, in a hospital surrounded by strangers, on a unit where families were given minimal time with their loved ones. Was my mother physically and almost brutally revived several times because she had good insurance...even though she had signed a statement requesting that she receive no life sustaining measures? Were we, her family with but a small voice, in a battle with a huge corporate hospital machine that had no hearing? Forever I will feel responsible for her painful, difficult death. I wish she had had better options and I know she is with me in spirit to advocate for compassionate aid in dying. Neither of us would wish anything other than compassion and choices for those faced with death.

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