

Terry Mahon
HB 5326

To the Public Health Committee,

Regarding the subject bill, AN ACT CONCERNING COMPASSIONATE AID IN DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS, I want you to know that I strongly support this bill.

I recognize that for many this is an emotional topic but I also recognize that death is inevitable for everyone, including myself. While I am currently in good health and at my age, 63, I expect to live for many more years I do understand that I will not live forever. Obviously I cannot predict the circumstances under which I will die but my thinking is that, for myself, if I have contracted a fatal and incurable illness and am faced with the prospect of death in the short term, such as the six months the bill describes, and in the meantime a slow, inch by inch debilitating decline either suffering pain or existing in a medicated state little able to participate in my own life, unable to care for myself, just waiting to die, I would rather accept the inevitable, celebrate the life that I've had, and face my end quickly with dignity while I am still able to act and to make my own decisions about my own life.

And my life is, after all, my own.

I would also like to know that there is an effective way available for me to do this, that I can count on professional and experienced medical help rather than the uncertain path of trying to put something together on my own.

I understand that not everyone would choose such a path and I'm not asking anyone else to do that. And perhaps, like most people in states where such an option is legal, I may decide at the time not to avail myself of this option. Like most people in states where such an option is legal, I may even go so far as to procure the life-ending medication and, in the end, decide not to use it.

But I would very much like to know that I could. Please pass this bill.

Thank You for your time and Best Regards,
Terry Mahon
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