

Thomas Platt

To the Public Health Committee:

I got interested in this issue a few years back when a friend died of melanoma. At the calling hours, his wife told me that he was in such pain at the end "That you could only hope for death." I happen to know that my friend's religion prevented him from taking his own life.

I myself have no such compunction and left the scene determined that I definitely would not want to follow in his footsteps if I should develop a similar condition. I see such an unremittingly painful end as pointless agony.

An observation about some of those against this bill: I noted that a few quadriplegics, or near-quadruplegics, gave testimony last year when this issue came up. I gathered that the implication was that if aid in dying was granted to the terminally ill meeting the conditions of this bill, that dominoes would fall, and eventually our society would Nazi-style start rounding up those it deemed unfit and mark them for death whether they want it or not.

In answer, I can only point out that this is not Nazi Germany, and indeed under the stipulations of bill HB 5326, my friend, who certainly would have qualified under its provisions, would still be free to carry out the natural death of his choice and his religion. If you pass this bill, and I fervently hope you will, there is no reason why others cannot continue to choose his path.

Please open up this alternative option for the rest of us.

Sincerely yours,

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