

Legislative Testimony

Public Health Committee

H.B. No 5326- An act concerning compassionate aid in dying for terminally ill patients

March 17, 2014

Madelyn Gerrity

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Madelyn Gerrity and I am a senior at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol. I am writing this letter in opposition to the proposed bill H.B. No 5326- An at concerning compassionate aid in dying for terminally ill patients.

Euthanasia according to Merriam-Webster is "the act or practice of killing someone who is very sick or injured in order to prevent any more suffering." Although the intentions behind the mercy killing are only good it does not mean that it is right. Euthanasia is a glorified form of murder. In history euthanasia was used to ween off the 'unfit' in society, such as those people with mental or physical disabilities.

H.B. No 5326 does not require patients to see a psychiatrist or counselor before obtaining the lethal drug- fewer than 7% have been referred for psychiatric evaluation in Oregon. This means ill people with treatable depression can get a life-ending prescription, rather than effective psychological care. This is a scary thought, I challenge you to think of one of your loved ones wanting to take their own life. Every persons life is a gift from God, by allowing H.B. 5326 we are making it easier for people to take their own lives without thinking of the consequence because it is pain free and easy.

Thank you for taking the time to consider all of the consequences and benefits of H.B. 5326.

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