

March 17, 2014

RE: Public Hearing on HB 5326

Dear Public Health Committee Members:

I am writing regarding HB 5326, urging you to oppose this bill.

The title of this bill is very deceiving: "Compassionate Aid for the Dying". It sounds more like a bill that would protect the life and dignity of the person, not Assisted Suicide.

This bill directly violates the dignity of the most vulnerable in our society, the elderly, disabled, and terminally ill. HB 5326 would make such people feel a burden to their family and society at a time when they need support.

With the advancement in palliative care, patients suffering from a terminal illness can be alleviated from physical pain. Ironically, Dr. Blafour Mount, the father of palliative care in North America, quotes assisted suicide as a "disastrous mistake". Having experience as a doctor and a cancer patient himself, Dr.

Balfour's testimony should ring loud and clear.

One has to call to mind the Hippocratic Oath: "I will give no deadly medicine to any one if asked, nor suggest any such counsel..." This bill violates the obligation of a physician, a noble role in society, who helps and heals, not kills.

Thank you for your consideration in opposing HB 5326.

Tierney Moran

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