

March 17, 2015

To the members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am submitting testimony in OPPOSITION to HB7015. It is distressing to see legislation promoting physician-assisted suicide being dragged up once again. To promote the death of innocent people is unconscionable. Where will the slippery slope end? People in hospice will be made to feel they are burdensome and will be pressured to “get it over with.” And people who undergo physician-assisted suicide can still die horrible deaths.

A person does not have dignity because he dies a painless death or because he is willing to take his life. A person has dignity because he is a human being. Suicide, whether or not it is assisted by a physician, violates a person’s dignity.

The San Francisco Chronicle on February 19, 1997 published “I Don’t Want a Choice to Die” by Robert Salamanca, a hospice patient who later died of Lou Gehrig’s disease. To quote from the piece:

Euthanasia advocates believe they are doing people like me a favor. They are not. The negative emotions toward the terminally ill and disabled generated by their advocacy is actually at the expense of the “dying” and their families and friends. We often feel disheartened and without self-assurance because of a false picture of what it is like to die created by these enthusiasts who prey on the misinformed...

Many pro-euthanasia groups “showcase” people with ALS. They portray us as feeble, unintelligible and dying by slow suffocation. This is absolutely false, and I protest their efforts vehemently. . . . We are not people just waiting for someone to help us end our misery, but to the contrary, we are people reaching out to love—to be loved—wanting to feel life at its best...

In my view, the pro-euthanasia followers’ posture is a great threat to the foundation upon which all life is based, and that is hope. I exhort everyone: Life is worth living, and life is worth receiving. I know. I live it every day.

I urge that this legislation receive the death which it deserves. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Timothy Watkins

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