

Written Testimony for Public Hearing
House Bill 7015 – Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients

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I am writing in support of House Bill 7015 – Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients. I am writing solely for myself, but with some personal background to share.

In 1983, at age 65, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. For the next 5 years she suffered through one mastectomy...then another; she went through both radiation and chemotherapy. She lost her hair, and much of her energy, but her hope remained strong. Unfortunately her breast cancer metastasized, resulting in a brain tumor. She opted for a third surgery, followed by radiation, risking permanent brain damage, but hoping it might finally destroy the cancer. My mother was a brave woman, pursuing all available medical options at the time that offered hope of recovery. However, when the cancer reappeared in her bones, medical options could only offer 'comfort', not hope. Her last few months, although fully supported by her doctors, family and a wonderful hospice team, were spent in a haze of morphine that often could not alleviate her pain.

If she had had the choice, would she have terminated her life earlier and avoided such a painful death? I don't know. I do know, however, that just *having* such an option available would have eased her mind. No matter what her personal decision would have been, having that option would have brought her some peace.

I hope you can support this bill for terminally ill patients. Thank you for your consideration.