

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: David Lyon <dlroar@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 9:54 PM
To: JudTestimony; Sen. McLachlan, Michael
Subject: Bill 7015

To members of the Judiciary committee:

I urge you to oppose H.B. 7015, the "assisted suicide bill." This is misplaced compassion and I believe this concept is harmful for a variety of reasons and the details don't make anything better.

- 1) The focus should be on health care and not on "death care." Resources could be denied, and suicide encouraged. There could be a reduction in research and services that could help improve a patient's comfort. There are alternatives to suicide and pain that are currently available through hospice and other care facilities.
- 2) The bill could be the "start of something awful" with the potential that assisted suicide could be expanded to minors, and those with long-term but not fatal disabilities.
- 3) Assisted suicide promotes a culture of death, not life. In Europe, euthanasia has expanded (Belgium). The culture is becoming bigoted towards the elderly and disabled, dangerously placing a monetary value on human life, and encouraging suicide over care.
- 4) While proponents are truly concerned about the quality of life of the terminally ill, assisted suicide is still not a "dignified" way to die.
- 5) Those who have chosen suicide in Oregon have not been concerned with pain but with the concern of being dependent on others and a burden to others. Suicide artificially ends the relationship with friends and relatives, many who are dedicated to helping the patient during his/her last days.
- 6) I personally don't understand how doctors can prescribe poisons. Medications are supposed to provide healing and relief, not kill. If someone wants to die, they don't need a doctor's help. They don't need a law legalizing suicide to end their lives.
- 7) Details: the law falsifies the cause of death, attributing to a disease, instead of suicide, as the cause of death.

Thank you for your consideration,
David Lyon
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