

AN ACT CONCERNING END-OF-LIFE CARE, Bill No. 5417.

Good Morning, my name is Karina Danvers and I am here in support of AN ACT CONCERNING END-OF-LIFE CARE, Bill No. 5417.

This is my third time testifying in support of this legislation; a legislation that in my opinion can be summarized in a few words – the ability to choose my time of death during the last six months of my life, without breaking the law.

Each time I have testified in the past I have described to you how I envision my ending (at home, with my loved ones, including my beloved cat Ella); I have shared with you my disease that might eventually bring me to make this decision, I have also shared with you that I am Catholic, and that I might not be able to bring myself to use this law for myself.

However, those stories didn't seem to have resonated with some of you who have opposed this bill; most of you - from either side of the issue - have never asked any questions of the people who are living with a terminal illness – instead you spend hours questioning administrators and medical providers who oppose this law, that have repeated the same “misleading facts” over and over again.

So, let me try something new ... something that I think “we” have forgotten to tell you. ALL of US – on either side of this issue are fighting to live ... I have been fighting for almost 30 years to stay alive ... I have tried every toxic treatment so I can continue being a productive citizen ... so you must understand – none of us today want to die, none of us that I know of today, can't wait for this law to pass so we can call it a day ... all of us want to live with dignity and purpose for as long as we can!

We want to live for as long as we can, with all the help we can get from the medical profession ... none of us have the illusion that at the end of our lives we will be running marathons ... or live like we did before our illnesses became terminal when we have less six months to live; however since WE KNOW what REAL PAIN IS, since WE KNOW what REAL SUFFERING IS – trust us, please, when we tell you, we NEED THIS LAW ... when enough is enough ... when living is just not living ... when a heart beating is NOT ENOUGH, when a shallow breath is NOT ENOUGH ... when having vital signs that said we are alive is NOT ENOUGH, for some of us, ... please give us the PEACE of MIND to know that if it gets too EXCRUCIATINGLY PAINFUL, that we have a PEACEFUL and LAWFULLY alternative for the end our lives.

Thank you.