

Thank you for the opportunity to tell you that I strongly support HB 5417.

My sister-in-law suffered long with ovarian cancer. After 13 years in and out of remission and many rounds of chemo, she finally collapsed. She was taken to the hospital, where she became unconscious and eventually died. At the funeral parlor, a woman approached me and said that I looked like someone she could confess to. She had visited my sister-in-law in the hospital. She had seen how greatly she was suffering -- moaning in her unconsciousness, despite morphine. She knew that my sister-in-law was not conscious enough to ask for help, but only too conscious to experience great pain. This woman -- whose name I don't know -- asked the nurse to please administer more morphine, to help end my sister-in-law's misery. The nurse said she understood, and would do so. My sister-in-law died that night.

I thanked the woman in the funeral parlor for her kindness and bravery. I feel grateful to the nurse, as well.

I wish to live in a state in which my sister-in-law could have made her own decisions about end-of-life care -- a state in which caring friends, family members and medical professionals know the wishes of the one suffering, and can be authorized to implement them without guilt and without breaking the law.

Thank you.

Nancy Wilcox
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