

Written Testimony to Support House Bill 5898:  
An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients  
Public Health Committee

I support this compassionate bill that spells out appropriate terms and conditions for those of us who wish to have an option available to us to competently choose to transition without pain or suffering, rather to transition with dignity.

To those of you who are in opposition to this choice, please listen with an open mind. No one is telling you to use this option. No one can make you use it. I respect your right to your religious views, and all of your views. That's what the constitution guarantees to all of us. You need to respect my rights and others' rights who want the availability of this option, because we have a right to our beliefs too. Why do people not want to abide by the separation of church and state, as established by our forefathers? I am a spiritual person who believes in an afterlife, but I don't believe in suffering during the last six months or less of my life if it can be avoided. Again, if you don't want to use this option, then don't. Have all of you who are opposing this bill never euthanized your dog or cat to eliminate his or her suffering when death is imminent? Why do we show more compassion for animals than people?

Please stop disseminating misinformation, and also stop the fear mongering. Instead, please respect the views and rights of all people. If I decide to use this option to die with compassion and dignity, please be happy, not sad, for me. I am happy for your right to choose not to use this option.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Cooper  
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