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March 18, 2019

Subject: Raised Bill No. 5898
An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients

Dear Distinguished Members:

I am submitting this to urge you in the strongest possible terms to support this bill. This involves as personal a decision as can be made in a lifetime. Please be constantly reminded that it contains many safeguards regarding its implementation, and also for any suffering individual who wishes to utilize it to end his/her suffering. These safeguards include involving more than one physician, parameters and conditions for its use, counseling, more than one request for its use by an individual seeking to take advantage of it, and restrictions on who else can be involved such as anyone involved in the person's estate, for example. As far as concerns by some that individuals with disabilities might be at a disadvantage if caregivers/family members no longer wish to care for them and instead urge them to employ the use of this act; please consider how many advocates these individuals have as you can see here, and how isolated the chances of this happening are likely to be given the language and safeguards included here, such as in Sec 1 # (9), Sec. 2 (a), Sec. 3 (a), and Sections 4-10.

I feel that opposing this bill is imposing any doubts, fears, or religious beliefs you may have onto a suffering person, when that could have been avoided. People do not want loved ones to suffer, however, some people are uncomfortable with their loved one taking advantage of this opportunity because of their own reservations. If you really love the person, why do you want them to suffer? That is the question, because that is what you would be doing by not supporting this bill. If you don't wish to use it yourself, then you don't have to. Of course you would be very upset and would miss a person close to you who used this, and that is as it should be. However, please remember that it is not your fight, it is theirs, and their wishes should be honored. Please consider wishing them the best and supporting their decision instead of trying to withhold this opportunity and causing them untold suffering. Is it not unconscionable to condemn another person to suffer, when they don't need to? Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Leigh Ann Hutchinson