

As one who watched both her parents die prolonged and needlessly painful deaths, I urgently ask you to support HB-5898, an act concerning aid in dying for terminally ill patients. This bill is about compassion; it is not about “death panels”, nor is it about suicide. It is about respecting the ability of a mentally competent, *already dying* patient to make decisions about the nature of their exit from this life. Anyone who has spent time with a loved one in their last days or weeks or months, who has suffered with them in their pain *that leads nowhere*, and who has listened to them plead for their death to finally arrive, would surely have wanted to grant them, when they are ready, the dignity of choosing a peaceful and gentle end. To grant them this is true compassion. Please do not deny this last measure of agency and dignity to those, amongst whom we will all find ourselves someday, facing their final end.

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