

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill. I am in favor.

My three closest family members; father, mother, and brother all came to the end of their lives not wishing to carry on under extraordinary medical care that only promised more suffering and not more quality time.

This is a highly personal decision that should not be second-guessed by others with differing values, experience, or religious beliefs. This decision should be made by the individual and his or her physician only and should be honored by the medical team serving the dying person. Patients should discuss the option of medical assistance in dying beforehand and if the agreement cannot be made by their physician, the patient should be guided to another medical caregiver who can and will follow the wishes of the patient.

Most importantly in this agreement, the physician should not be criticized or prosecuted for aiding the patient. In the case of terminal illness with little to no hope of recovery, the medical provider should be allowed to assist by medical means that might shorten the patient's life if that is the individual's wish.

Certainly not every person chooses this option of medically assisted dying. But people who do have thought long and hard about it and the medical professionals should be trained to enable that last wish when it is requested without fear of negative consequences.

Thank you for the opportunity to make written testimony.

Very truly yours,

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