Public Health Committee

An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients (HB 5898) will ll have a public hearing on this coming Monday.. This legislation would allow mentally capable, terminally ill adults with six months or fewer to live the option to request and receive a doctor's prescription for medication they can decide to take to die peacefully if their suffering becomes unbearable. As your constituent, I ask that you support this important legislation.

My brother struggled with Parkinson's disease progressing over 17 years. Even several years before his death we discussed that he would suicide rather than be powerless in the disease's clutches as it slowly finished everything that made him a human. Two weeks before his successful suicide he told me he was getting ready to do it while I was away. When I came back home I found out that he had succeeded and I was very pleased and proud that he went **his** way.

The only issue with this legislation is that it talks about intractable pain. There are many ways of suffering. I know because I have gone through them, and I am a physician to others who are suffering.

The so-called slippery slope argument is spacious. One can use hyperbole to prove nearly anything. The parameters of this legislation can be adjusted as time goes on, such as putting intractable suffering instead of intractable pain, allowing for the fact that the timing of death is not exactly certain also.

Please support HB 5898: An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients.

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