

Dear Committee members,

I encourage you to adopt HB 5898, and act allowing for Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill.

I was present when my sister died of lung cancer, when my mother died from ovarian cancer and my father's death from a stroke. Perhaps none of them would have opted for direct aid in dying, but our family would have benefited from talking about that option. It would have helped to be more realistic about what was about to happen.

Families struggle to deal with the certainty of death. Not having a caring option to stop the suffering makes any conversation harder. I doubt we will see a lot of families choose physician assisted end-of-life. By the time many family's get to hospice, their loved one is already in so much pain that a morphine induced sleep is all we can offer. Because we don't talk about our options, we miss the chance to say: "thank you, I'm sorry, please forgive me, I forgive you, I love you, It's ok to go."

Passing this bill will give physicians and family members one more tool to help our loved ones pass peacefully. I don't know what I will do when my time comes, but I will be comforted knowing that I have a choice. Give me that choice. Please pass the bill into law.

Sincerely,
James Stirling
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