

**FEBRUARY 26, 2021**  
**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY**  
**H.B. No. 6425**  
**An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients**  
**Submitted by: Kim Hoffman**

Almost exactly 2 years ago I came before this committee and testified in support of the Aid in Dying Bill. I come before you today to again support the Bill for Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients.

Just as this —Zoom— is a different venue than before, I am a different person.

2 years ago I spoke about going to work everyday and my commitment as a social worker to my students: I have not worked since December 2019 due to my steadily declining health.

2 years ago I spoke about playing tennis matches and running road races: at this point, 'walking' a mere 1/2 mile loop takes every ounce of energy and determination I have.

I spoke of long bouts of chemotherapy: and still, I have not had a break from treatment, now, in 5 years.

My disease has metastasized to the point where I am always in pain or some level of discomfort, and always fatigued. The days are long, the nights often feel longer.

My mind is still clear, though. So I am keenly aware of the deterioration of my health, and keenly aware of all that I want to do and simply am not able to do.

I have not given up. I began a trial 2 weeks ago with the hope that there may still be a chance to stabilize my disease. But this is, I am near certain, the last hope.

If the trial drugs do not work, my disease will continue to progress, likely rapidly. The pain will likely get to a point where it is only manageable by a steady dosing of narcotics; the fatigue will likely increase to the point such that I will no longer be able to perform even the simplest of daily living skills on my own.

It is sad to me that my testimony is so grim, but it is what is true and real.

I do not want sympathy—don't 'feel sorry' for me.

Rather, feel compassion. Imagine how you would 'feel' in my situation and how long you could tolerate the suffering and daily loss of capacity before you'd just want to relax and die peacefully.

Again, out of care and respect, I implore you to act with compassion and support Bill 6425.  
Submitted by: **Kim Hoffman**