

January 23, 2024

To: House Health Finance and Policy Committee

Re: Hearing on the End-of-Life Options Act

I am writing in support of HF 1930 relating to end-of-life options for terminally ill adults.

This issue is personal for me, as I watched my husband die a very painful death. I frequently hear that Hospice care can ensure that no one has to die in pain, but that was certainly not the case for my husband. He was in Hospice care, which was wonderful, but even the skilled and attentive Hospice nurses couldn't control his excruciating pain. I so wish he had had an option to choose being able to die without being in such awful pain, and want to see all Minnesotans have such an option should they choose to use it.

HF 1930, modeled after the Oregon law which has been in effect for over 20 years without major problems, authorizes medical aid in dying so that mentally capable, terminally ill adults may ask for and receive a prescription medication they can self-administer for a peaceful death if their suffering becomes unbearable.

Medical aid in dying is an option only for those who are already dying, with six months or less to live, and who are capable of making their own medical decisions.

End of life options are currently authorized in ten states (California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont and Washington) as well as the District of Columbia. It is my hope that Minnesota will pass HF 1930 so that Minnesotans have the same freedom to exercise their autonomy and choice when they are dying. For so many people who are facing stark end-of-life choices, this bill cannot pass soon enough.

Regards,

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