My name is Candace Fier and I am from Sleepy Eye, MN, and House district 15.

I am writing in opposition to H.F. 1930 “End of Life Option Act.

I have been a licensed RN in the state of Minnesota for 37 years. My opposition to this bill stems from the fact that it encourages Minnesota health care providers to abandon their role as healers and serve as accomplices to the death of some of the most vulnerable people among us – those suffering from terminal illness.

The state of Minnesota is known for its excellent medical care and we as a medical community are relentless in the pursuit of ever-higher quality medical care. Our expertise in diagnosing, treating, and curing people provides a great service to many from around the world. With the same dedication, the communities of our state provide exceptional care in the form of palliative and hospice care for those unable to experience a cure. This legislation would undermine that reality.

While there are many areas of concern in this bill, one of the most serious is the denial of public reporting related to the practice of MAD. The bill does not require full and accurate public reporting of key indicators so that the people of Minnesota can decide for themselves what the harm or benefit of MAD is for our state. This lack of accountability does not hold MAD to the high standards that we as a state demand from our health care system and its providers. This lack of transparency and accountability should in and of itself urge you the committee to vote no.

Medical assistance in dying abandons patients to despair and disease, and corrupts the medical provider’s role as a healer. It can be used as an excuse to deny curative and palliative care. I urge you to vote no on HF 1930 and thank you for accepting my testimony.