

Good afternoon. Thank you chairwoman Liebling and committee members for allowing me to share my experience with you today.

Living with an ALS diagnosis for nearly three decades now, I have seen so much end-of-life suffering. Two years into my diagnosis, I had the opportunity to lobby Congress, asking support to waive the two year waiting period for ALS patients to receive Social Security and Medicare benefits.

In our meeting with Representative, Jim Ramsted, my husband read the names of all the people I knew personally with ALS, that had died from the disease. By the time my husband finished reading the list of over 100 names, I was sobbing uncontrollably. I knew at that moment that I could never stop advocating for those who suffer from this disease.

If you are not aware, people with ALS suffer one organ shutdown after another, until they basically suffocate to death. Those that could not face this agonizing necrosis have chosen to end their own lives, and have been in violation of the law.

I know how witnessing a loved one die a slow, agonizing death takes a toll on family and friends. I don't want to suffocate to death, grasping for every breath. And, I don't want my family to go through that. When the end is near, I'd like the option to take a medication that will allow me to die peacefully, surrounded by my loved ones.

I believe that terminally ill, mentally competent adults in Minnesota should have the right to request and receive from their physician a prescription for life-ending medication if their suffering has become unbearable.

I implore you to support Representative Freiberg's diligent efforts to grant able-minded people like me the right to a death with dignity and support the HF1930, the Minnesota End-Of-Life Option Act.

Sincerely,
Bobbi Jacobsen
Richfield