Lois Braun,

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**RE: End-of-Life Options Act**

I am writing in support of the **End-of-Life Options Act**.  This legislation is needed to decriminalize a choice for people with a prognosis of less than six months to live, most of whom are succumbing to acute diseases like cancer. It has worked well in Oregon for 25 years. Those who worry that the law will be used to pressure people with disabilities to use it need only look to Oregon to see that the safeguards against coercion in its implementation have been effective.

Advocating for options at the end of life is a cause I inherited from my physician father, who was asked by more than a few patients, as well as by his own mother, whether there was anything he could do to shorten their suffering.  He wished he could have, but he didn't because he felt that his responsibility to other patients required that he not risk his medical license. Instead, he took it up as a political cause. He himself wished he might one day have the option for himself, but mercifully, the illness that took his life at age 83 was swift. I now carry on in his honor, and hope that it is available for me and my loved ones if and when the need comes.

Some doctors feel that physician involvement in end-of-life decisions compromises their Hippocratic Oath. I looked it up and all I can find relating to death in the version that is most widely used today is (rewritten in 1964 by [Louis Lasagna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Lasagna), Academic Dean of the School of Medicine at Tufts University),  *"Most especially must I tread with care in matters of life and death. If it is given me to save a life, all thanks. But it may also be within my power to take a life; this awesome responsibility must be faced with great humbleness and awareness of my own frailty."*In other words, the Hippocratic Oath does not forbid doctors from participating in the hastening of death; it only requires that they do so with humility and thoughtfulness. The End-of-Life Options Act allows doctors to opt out.

Some people are opposed to the End-of-Life Options Act because it conflicts with their religious belief that the timing of one’s death is entirely of God’s choosing. Those who believe that can choose not to use it. We have freedom of religion in this country. They should not deny me the option to end my own life in a way that is consistent with my religious beliefs.

Sincerely,

Lois Braun