January 24, 2024

Dear Mr. Sande,

I am hoping to attend tomorrow’s hearing, but I’m not speaking if I can get in, so I wanted you to know why I so strongly support the bill to allow Medical Aid in Dying in Minnesota.

I have personal experiences with dear friends in Oregon and Vermont who have chosen this way to end their suffering from terminal illnesses. Their spiritual and mental health as they faced their deaths was so much better without the uncertainty and fear and pain they would have endured at length if MAID was not available to them. They had a chance to have their supportive families with them at the end. Being able to choose the time of their death enabled important conversations that might have not happened if things remained uncertain and unpredictable and fading capacity increased.

I appreciate that religious doctrines influence the beliefs of some opponents of MAID, but I don’t see why religious beliefs that are not my own and probably not most Minnesotans should block a change in the law which simply enable people to make their own choice about how their lives will end in extreme circumstances.

Thanks for passing on my views,

Wayne Arnason

255 Western Ave N, Apt 502

St. Paul MN 55102