



## MINNESOTA CHAPTER

Representative Tina Liebling, Chair  
Health Finance and Policy  
January 25, 2024

Chair Liebling and Health Finance and Policy Committee Members,

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, MN Chapter (NASW - MN), we are writing in support of HF1930, a bill that establishes end-of-life options for terminally ill patients.

NASW - MN is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in our state, representing about 2000 social workers. We represent clinical social workers (LICSW) who make up the largest group of mental health providers in Minnesota and social workers in hospital, hospice care, and nursing home settings. Our social workers have experience supporting patients and their families who are managing complex and at times, terminal medical conditions.

Self-determination is fundamental to social work practice. It is our goal to help clients develop the skills and knowledge they need in order to make informed decisions and identify goals. Our role is not to guide patients toward a conclusion, but to support them as they consider their options and advocate with them as they move forward. We believe that this self-determination should extend to end of life decisions.

We appreciate the measures in this bill that safeguard against abuse. For example, we support individuals, not surrogates, making the request, a mental health consultation if there are concerns in regards to capacity, and other multi-step systems that this legislation requires.

Currently patients in ten other states and the District of Columbia have access to end-of-life options. We know from this experience that it is utilized almost exclusively in hospice care. Hospice social workers observe that simply having the option is comforting to patients. Self-determination extends dignity to people, especially as they face loss.

We appreciate your service and work on this important issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen E. Goodenough".

Karen E. Goodenough, PhD, LGSW  
Executive Director  
NASW-MN

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Arneson".

Jenny Arneson, MSW, LGSW  
Legislative Consultant  
NASW-MN