My name is Katelyn Sawyer. I am from Shoreview MN, in legislative district 40B, and I am writing **in support** of upcoming legislation on medical assistance in dying that will be heard in committee this Thursday the 25th.

As a 3rd year medical student at the University of Minnesota, who will in 14 short months be beginning my career as a physician in the state of Minnesota, I am a strong supporter of medical assistance in dying. Medical assistance in dying, in which physicians or other healthcare providers make available the medications and tools necessary for a comfortable and humane death, has been garnering more and more mainstream acceptance over the last several decades. It now has strong majority support among both physicians and patients. It is widely legal and available in several peer nations, such as Canada, and several other US states. It rests upon the fundamental medical principles of **autonomy** and **beneficence**. That as physicians, it is not our job to solely extend the hours of life by whatever means necessary, but rather to empower patients to live their lives and manage their health as **they** choose. It is a recognition that if given the choice, many patients with a terminal illness would prefer to die at home, in peace and without pain, surrounded by their family and loved ones, rather than spending one or two additional weeks suffering in a hospital bed. It is a recognition that healthcare decisions, whether they be about reproduction, medical care for our children, or even death, are best made between a patient and their physician, without the government acting as a mediator. It is a recognition that forcing a patient with a terminal disease at the end of their life who is ready to die to suffer for a few more days is not compatible with that ancient oath to **Do No Harm.**

Minnesota has always been a leader in healthcare. We performed the world’s first heart open heart surgery. We pioneered the advancements that made cystic fibrosis a survivable disease. We consistently rank at the top of the nation for quality and access to healthcare. I am so proud to be training here, and so honored that I will get to spend my life as a physician in our great state, and I urge the committee to continue that tradition by **advancing HF1930.**

Thank you to the committee for your time and consideration

Katelyn Sawyer

MD student

University of Minnesota Medical School Class of 2025