

PATRICK DENGATE

January 24, 2024

Dear Rep. Sande,

I fully support the passage of HF 1930, which offers compassionate alternatives to dying persons. To be honest, I think it is too limited, but it's a start. We should show at least as much love, understanding, and compassion to our fellow humans as we show our pets.

Some opponents see a slippery slope, but the experience in other places that have enacted death with dignity laws shows there are no big surges in uncalled-for, forced "mercy killings." You will probably also hear from the religiously devout who may be opposed to this bill. But we are a secular society, and are charged to keep religion and government separate. If people object on religious grounds, they need not make use of the allowances granted in HF 1930. Their views should not dictate what is seen by their neighbors as an important, private, life-and-death option.

In this culture, we are often in denial about death. Naturally, it's a difficult subject, but one which people in other parts of the world often have a more mature attitude about. I think the emotional limitations regarding death we see in the U.S. might also be leading to a squeamishness and reluctance to face this issue, in this way. I hope the lawmakers of Minnesota can rise above that hesitancy, and deal with the matter straight on.

We like to talk about liberty and freedom in this country. Passing HF 1930 would be a way to walk that talk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Dengate". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.