

Dear Mr Sande:

Please add my written testimony in opposition to HF 1930 which is scheduled for committee hearing this week.

I have been in practice in Duluth since 1988 employed by Essentia Health, one of the largest medical systems in the state. I have never had a patient request for this service. I have discussed this bill and the multiple versions preceding it with literally hundreds of colleagues. The vast majority of my medical associates are strongly opposed to bills promoting medically assisted suicide. In fact I can only name a single physician that I know who is in favor of this legislation,

Many opponents have focused on the many moral, medical, and legal aspects of this bill and the presumptions associated with the need for this legislation. I agree with all of these well-known concerns. I will raise another issue that I'm quite sure has not been fully addressed:

This bill is blatantly racist. Is this too strong a term? I certainly don't think so. Please consider the statistics and demographics of those who utilize assisted suicide. The states with the longest history of physician assisted suicide such as Oregon have documented that the people who are in favor of these bills and who have availed themselves of this procedure are typically educated Caucasians with financial security. If any other type of bill was proposed that primarily addressed the needs of rich white folk, there would ensue a justified public outcry. Why has not this been considered in any of the discussions of the bill? Why have the supporters of this bill not addressed this serious issue? Do we really need a bill that basically serves the need and concerns of a small, wealthy, influential group of Minnesotans?

Along with my colleagues in the medical field, I stand in opposition to HF 1930.

Respectfully submitted,

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