

Greetings Committee Members,

My name is Jennifer Williams, I live in St Paul in district 67B. I oppose the HF1930 bill for numerous reasons.

I am a nurse of 27 years with 25 of those in inpatient and outpatient care of medical and oncology patients, and I have witnessed many deaths. The "Request for Medication to End My Life in a Peaceful Manner" is misleading and assumes that death will be peaceful. Death is not always peaceful. Even with the proposed method of terminating one's own life, unanticipated things can occur as death draws close. A person approaching death is going to the unknown and oftentimes this brings many unexpected physiological and psychological changes, including but not limited to some level of anxiety, and most distressing very high anxiety and agitation. The person who is ending their life intentionally will be left without the care and support of health care providers who can assist with the unexpected that often happens as death approaches.

The bill refers to the importance of having another person present when the individual self-administers the medical aid in dying medication. This other person will very likely suffer trauma, initially and long term from witnessing this kind of death, which is in all truth and honesty, a suicide. Please note the definition of suicide is according to Merriam Webster "the act or an instance of taking one's own life voluntarily and intentionally".

It is also a hypocritical bill in our current times of "opioid overdose crisis". Thousands of family & friends in MN have suffered loss & trauma from death of loved ones to opioid overdose and this bill is legalizing overdose causing death and perpetuating the crisis & suffering.

It is an unnecessary bill as people with terminal diagnosis have a plethora of options for care to manage & alleviate suffering caused by the disease, such as traditional pain medications, palliative care and hospice.

It is unfortunate to have a person end their life prematurely when their last days could be full of meaning. I have witnessed many times personally and as a nurse, friends & families reflecting and sharing, laughing and crying and loving deeply in the last months & days of life.

It must be noted that prognosis is not a certainty, it is an educated guess. I have known many people I cared for as a nurse die much quicker than their prognosis and I have had the joy of many more months to years with people I love who were given a prognosis of less than 6 months.

Death is always a tragedy and intentionally ending life increases the trauma, tragedy, suffering, anguish and pain.

Please do not pass this bill for the good and well-being of the people of the state of MN.

Thank you for your time and serious consideration.

