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## **Democrats for Life of America Testimony Against H.F. 1930 Health Finance and Policy Committee– Public Hearing January 25, 2024**

Dear Chairwoman Lieblich and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kristen Day, and I am the Executive Director of Democrats for Life of America (DFLA). DFLA embraces and advocates for the consistent life ethic within both the Democratic Party and society at large. We stand for the intrinsic worth and dignity of every human being from fertilization until natural death, “from womb to tomb.” We are, as we like to say, “pro-life for the whole life.”

We are pro-life but also Democrats. As Democrats, we strongly endorse the government's responsibility to protect the most vulnerable in our society.

Accordingly, DFLA strongly opposes HF 1930. HF 1930 establishes a subclass of human beings, namely the “terminally ill,” whose lives are deemed unworthy of the protection of the laws of the land because they are very sick and “are going to die soon anyway.” Our neighbor to the North passed similar legislation in 2016, and people warned of a slippery slope, and the warnings are coming to fruition. Canada added assisted suicide for those suffering from serious and chronic physical conditions, even if they are not life-threatening, and now, they may extend the death option to those with mental illness.

Every life has intrinsic dignity and worth, and we urge Missouri not to move further toward that dangerous slope.

Instead of legalizing assisted suicide, we urge our fellow Democrats, their Republican colleagues, and all people of goodwill to support more significant investment in palliative care, home health aides, at-home hospice instead, expanded access to mental health services, and affordable, quality healthcare, including end of life care that respects the intrinsic dignity of every human being “from womb to tomb.”

Such a comprehensive approach would address the actual issues that drive people to seek to end their lives instead of enabling them to kill themselves.

Thank you for considering DFLA's perspective on HF 1930.