

January 23, 2024

Chair Liebling and Members of the  
House Health Finance & Policy Committee  
State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55115

**RE: HF1930: End-of-Life Option for Terminally Ill Adults**

Dear Representative Liebling and committee members,

I'm writing in **opposition to HF1930** as a Registered Nurse and as a family member of loved ones lost to cancer.

I received my nursing degree 37 years ago, graduating from the University of Minnesota, Mpls campus. The first 31 years of my career were spent on the cardiac unit at the University of Minnesota Hospital. It is well known that Minnesota is a leader in the Healthcare industry, having some of the best medical facilities and advanced lifesaving technologies in the world. As the representative for the Rochester area, Rep. Liebling, I'm sure you are aware of this. To co-author a bill that allows "terminally ill" people to kill themselves flies in the face of Minnesota's reputation as an exceptional healthcare state.

My father was diagnosed in 1994 with lymphoma. His doctors in Wilmar and Hutchinson gave him 6 months to live. With chemotherapy and radiation available, even at that time, he lived 2 years longer than was expected! When my dad did reach the end of his life, we brought in Hospice Care through the county, and he passed away peacefully at home with my mom at his side.

My sister was 50 years old when she was diagnosed with her lymphoma. This was 19 years after our father's passing, and with advancements in chemo drug therapy, we were hopeful she would be able to fight the good fight and be a cancer survivor. She spent many days at Mayo hospital, and I was by her side. In the end, she only lived 8 months after her diagnosis, which shocked everyone, even the Mayo doctors. Her large family was by her side and the nurses at Mayo were exceptionally kind to us in our grief. Both lives were cut way too short, but still, the time family members and loved ones were able to spend with them at the end of their lives was precious to us all.

Having a "terminal illness" does not mean you have to suffer needlessly, especially in Minnesota. Minnesota has the best Palliative Care programs and caregivers available to everyone, so a person can die pain free with dignity after a well lived life.

Having a "terminal illness" usually does mean, however, that when faced with your own death, a person is not **mentally capable** of making a rational decision about ending your own life. HF1930 is null and void due to this truth. What "terminally ill" people need is love, good care, and hope.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Patty Bradway, RN  
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