As a retired physician, I write in support of HF 1930, the End of Life Option bill to be heard on 1/25/24 in the House Heath Finance and Policy Committee. Please include my statement in the public written testimony.

I support medical aid in dying (MAID) for terminally ill adults for several reasons. I have cared for patients who needlessly suffered in their last days, weeks, or months of life, despite their medical team’s best efforts. They hadn’t chosen to be in pain and at the mercy of their disease, and they didn’t have a choice about how long to continue.

I want this choice for others and for myself. I don’t know if I would exercise the MAID option. But as the end of my own life gets closer, I’d like to know I have the legal option to die peacefully should my existence become unbearable. That knowledge can be a profound comfort to people who receive a terminal diagnosis or are near death, even if they ultimately don’t request or use assistance in dying.

Some people say that medical aid in dying is not needed and that it goes against their religion. I respect their right to conduct their life according to their personal beliefs. I ask for the same respect—that I and others be allowed to live and die in keeping with our values.