

January 24, 2024

IN SUPPORT OF: Minnesota H.F. 1930: End-of-Life Option

I have a terminal diagnosis of ALS, and any internet search of the disease will tell you that the progression of the disease is unique to each patient, and that death is prolonged and complicated.

Regardless of diagnosis, what we all hope for, for ourselves and our loved ones, is a peaceful death. We already have processes and guidelines in place that allow us in specific circumstances to end life-support, to discontinue treatment, and to refuse treatment. But not all circumstances are covered. The decision is never easy.

What is most important to me about HF1930 is that the bill makes it legal for me to talk to my doctor about the medication option, without fear of harm to them or harm to me coming from the discussion. I am concerned about the legal liability to my health care providers and to my survivors for even bringing up the topic. I am wary of insurance companies who would look for a reason to deny the death benefits under my policy.

H.F. 1930 makes the decision **easier** because I can talk freely to a trained professional about ALL the options, instead of relying on word-of-mouth and my own haphazard research.

H.F. 1930 makes the decision **safer** because if this is my choice for end-of-life, I can access the medication and medical support in ways that are legal and regulated.

H.F. 1930 makes the decision **transparent**, because no one has to hide the fact that they discussed it, no one has to "talk in code" to get their thoughts across.

H.F. 1930 gives medical providers, patients and survivors **freedom** from legal repercussions when they follow the carefully constructed guidelines of the bill.

Medical care at any stage of life, from birth to death, should be a personal and private decision between an individual (or their legal caregivers), and their medical team. HF 1930 puts medication among the options for end-of-life, but more importantly, it allows for the safe and open consideration of **ALL options**.

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