

Roberta DiMezza

From: Butera, Giuseppe <GBUTERA@providence.edu>
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2024 4:01 PM
To: Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Roberts, Sherry; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Opposed to 2024-H7100, "Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act"
Attachments: Guest Column in the Feb. 26, 2023 newprint edition of the Providence Journal, -Where will the Push for Assisted Suicide End-- by Giuseppe Butera[89].pdf

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Dear Honorable Members of the RI House Judiciary Committee:

I'm writing to urge you to oppose passage of the so-called "Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act" (2024-H7100). There are many reasons to oppose the legalization of assisted suicide, but ultimately, the reason I oppose it is because it is immoral. Life should be cherished and the suffering should be comforted, not abandoned in the name of compassion. And then there are the medical professionals who will be pressured to use their gifts to kill rather than heal and comfort. This is a nightmare we can easily avoid simply by saying no to this bill.

Other reasons for opposing this bill are found in two guest columns I published in the Providence Journal. You can find the first (published on Mar. 4, 2021) here, where I argue that even those who see nothing morally wrong with assisted suicide should oppose its legalization since the history shows that "safeguards" built into the law are weak and inevitably fail: <https://www.providencejournal.com/story/opinion/2021/03/04/opinion-butera-legalized-assisted-suicide-targets-our-most-vulnerable/4568115001/> For proof that safeguards have failed in other jurisdictions, please see: <https://euthanasia.procon.org/historical-timeline/>

The other guest column appeared in the print edition of the ProJo on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023. I have attached a PDF of the column. In it, I argue that the legalization of assisted suicide will not satisfy its proponents but only lead to calls for wider and wider expansion to include increasingly vulnerable residents of Rhode Island. The simplest way to avoid all of this is to refuse legalization of assisted suicide in any form.

Additionally, I published an opinion piece in the Boston Globe in March of 2023: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/03/30/metro/who-has-right-take-life-another-or-even-their-own-life/>

If you would like to discuss any of the arguments or facts presented in my columns, please let me know.

All the best,

Giuseppe Butera

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“Live not by lies.” Alexander Solzhenitsyn