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From: Kristin Scharf <kscharf40@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 17, 2024 4:55 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Cc: jspeakman@rwu.edu
Subject: Support for Bill Number H7100

Importance: High

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I am writing in support of H7100, which is co-sponsored by my State Rep, June Speakman, so I know she is in support of it. I missed the hearing date last Thursday, but wanted to submit my testimony for this bill.

My father died a slow, agonizing death of Parkinson's and Lewy body dementia 10 yrs ago, and I have been a strong supporter of Compassion & Choices since then. It is hard to believe that Oregon passed a medical aid in dying bill 25 years ago, and it has taken this long for only 9 other states to pass similar legislation. We as a society have compassion for our pets, helping them to die peacefully, and yet don't give human beings the same compassion. In the US we spend billions on sending terminal patients to the ER, where they are put through painful lifesaving measures that make them suffer further. We have the technology to give consenting adults the option to choose to die peacefully, rather than in agony, when they have a terminal diagnosis. And we would reduce health care costs in the US by doing this. But we make it illegal, which I find very hard to understand. I never want to watch anyone else in my family die the way my father did, and I certainly don't want to die that way myself.

I pray that the RI House of Representatives will pass H7100 this year, rather than sending it back to committee again. There has been 25 years of review in the US, and there is ample evidence that this would be a good law. Please pass it now and help the people who need it this year.

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Supporter of Compassion & Choices