

Roberta DiMezza

From: Lisa Cooley <lcooley@dpvd.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 3:05 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: H-7100

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Dear House Judiciary,

My name is Lisa Cooley and I live in Warwick RI. I would like to oppose and hope you would oppose the Lila Manfield-Sapinsley "Compassionate Care Act" that is being heard this evening.

There are many reasons that we should not pass this bill in RI.

1. Insurance companies in other states like Oregon have been known to not cover expensive medical treatments for people, but instead push lethal drugs that are less expensive.
2. The evaluation of depressions is virtually non-existent before lethal drugs are prescribed.
3. Pain or fear of pain is not the main reason lethal drugs are requested, but instead more existential concerns like losing autonomy, less able to engage in activities, burden on family, friends or caregivers, loss of dignity and losing control of bodily functions.
4. The six month diagnoses for death is unreliable. It is extremely difficult to predict accurately, with patients living far beyond six months.
5. Suicide promotion and contagion are real.
6. People with disabilities fear assisted suicide due to coercion and abuse
7. Proponents of assisted suicide turn "Safeguards" into "Barriers"

Thank you for your consideration and please do not take RI down this slippery slope.



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