

Roberta DiMezza

From: Mary Dempsey <mardemps64@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2024 3:24 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Re: Compassion and Care

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On Thu, Feb 15, 2024 at 5:05 PM Mary Dempsey <mardemps64@gmail.com> wrote:

As a retired Hospice Nurse who has also been there for the deaths of several family members and close friends due to terminal illnesses, I can't stress enough how important it is to modernize how we handle end of life issues. The recent death of my brother, Joe, this past December 19, of cancer, reinforced the need to allow patients to die with dignity before the choice is taken out of their hands and given to professionals who mean well, but are hamstrung by all the red tape in the health care system. Hospice Care is a wonderful choice for end of life issues, but it can feel agonizingly slow when the patient is suffering from death rattling, agitation and families are left to watch helplessly. I am hoping that somewhere in the near future, those who wield the power and make the laws, will recognize the importance of allowing the patient and the family to choose how they wish to make their exit. In the meantime, I will continue to follow this issue to see if any of you are making an effort on this very important issue. Thanks.