



**Rhode Island Partnership
for Home Care**

Advancing quality healthcare at home

March 14, 2024

VIA EMAIL: HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov

Hon. Robert Craven, Sr., Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Request for Amendments on House Bill 7100; Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act

Dear Chair Craven,

On behalf of my association, I am requesting that your committee amend House Bill 7100, *An Act Relating to Health and Safety -- Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act*, sponsored by Rep. Edith Ajello.

This bill seeks to allow for terminally ill patients to consult physicians with the purpose of self-administering prescribed narcotics to commit suicide. In its current form, the bill does not allow for home care, home nursing care or hospice providers to operationalize this option for terminally ill patients that choose to die at home, nor does it comply with the Department of Health's continuity of care transition requirements. This bill does not waive home care, home nursing care or hospice providers from liability as immunity is only granted for physicians and offers limited protections to traditional healthcare facilities, such as hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, not all those that are licensed by the Department of Health as a facility, including aforementioned home-based providers. Additionally, the current bill does not offer adequate patient-centered options counseling ahead of patients making such a decision.

To resolve these identified issues for home care, home nursing care and hospice providers, my association is requesting the following three amendments to this bill:

- 1) Amend Page 4, Lines 27-29 to replace the current language with the following: "(v) The physician received a written attestation signed by the medical director or nurse manager of a hospice provider that the patient received a hospice consultation informing the patient of all feasible symptom control and pain management options for end-of-life care through a hospice provider and that said patient refused all options available."
- 2) Add language to Page 5, after Line 33 referred to as "23-4.15-6. Health care facility exception." with the following: "For patients that are in the care of a home care provider, home nursing care provider, or hospice provider agency, the authorizing physician must notify in writing to the home care provider, home nursing care provider, or hospice provider agency upon prescribing a lethal dose of medication for the patient to self-administer. Upon notification or thereafter by an authorizing physician, the home care provider, home nursing care provider, or hospice provider agency may discharge the patient without continuity of care or

penalty for refusing to provide care once the patient is prescribed a lethal dose of medication to self-administer.”

- 3) Amend Page 6, Line 14-15 to replace the current language with the following: “(2) The physician received a written attestation signed by the medical director or nurse manager of a hospice provider that the patient received a hospice consultation informing the patient of all feasible symptom control and pain management options for end-of-life care through a hospice provider and that said patient refused all options available;”

We kindly request a meeting with you, the bill sponsor and members of your committee to discuss the home care and hospice community’s concerns with this bill. It is our hope not to impede the passage of this bill, rather to protect home care and hospice providers and improve patient-centered options counseling related to such a sensitive decision between terminally ill patients and their healthcare providers.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I am looking forward to your reply and subsequent discussion on this bill.

Please add this letter to the committee’s record for this bill.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Oliver

Nicholas Oliver, MPA, CAE
Executive Director

cc: Members, House Committee on Judiciary
Hon. Edith Ajello, House Bill 7100 Sponsor