

Roberta DiMezza

From: steveray8@netscape.net
Sent: Saturday, February 10, 2024 7:15 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: 2024-h7100

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Dear Committee,

I write to you today in opposition to the passage of 2024-H7100 LILA MANFIELD SAPINSLEY COMPASSIONATE CARE ACT. I do not doubt the sincerity of the intentions of those who have proposed this bill, but I cannot agree with their judgement. There are examples of current jurisdictions both internationally and domestically that have passed such legislation. In many of these jurisdictions there has been a gradual expansion of 'qualifying' illnesses, to include even mental illness and, in some jurisdictions to allow minors to choose medical assistance in dying. The current pressure on our healthcare system to keep costs down will put terminally ill patients in a tough spot. So can pressure from family members who desire for the death of their relative before all their money 'runs out'. There are now reported cases next door in Canada where patients with terminal illnesses are denied care for such illnesses as pneumonia, against their will, with an attitude like 'the care might extend the patient's life and they are going to die anyway so why not save the money and let them die earlier'.

Granted, this is not the intention behind this bill, but the bill starts our society on a path of hardness of heart toward the suffering and dying. 'Assisted' suicide will lead to 'suggested' suicide by caregivers or medical personnel, which will lead to 'demanded' suicide which will lead to euthanasia. If this bill should pass the conscience protections in this bill must be robust. There will be erosion, as we have seen with the federal AHA's protections forcing healthcare personnel to have to go to court to protect their conscience rights and jobs. It will happen here as well

Please do not start our state off onto a slippery slope. As a society, we should be doing our best to help our most vulnerable members not assisting them to kill themselves or, predictably, to eventually kill them off ourselves.

Sincerely,
Stephen Raymond
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