

**ANTHONY DESISTO LAW ASSOCIATES, LLC**  
450 Veterans Memorial Parkway, Suite 103  
East Providence, RI 02914

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Anthony DeSisto  
[tony@adlawllc.net](mailto:tony@adlawllc.net)  
Ben Ferreira  
[bferreira@adlawllc.net](mailto:bferreira@adlawllc.net)  
Stephen J. Antonucci\*  
[santonucci@adlawllc.net](mailto:santonucci@adlawllc.net)  
Mark E. Hartmann\*  
[mhartmann@adlawllc.net](mailto:mhartmann@adlawllc.net)

Telephone 401.421.0170  
Facsimile 401.270.4878  
\*also admitted in MA

February 12, 2025

Chairman Robert Craven  
House Judiciary Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Craven,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Association for Justice ("RIAJ"), I am writing to express RIAJ's opposition to H 5219.

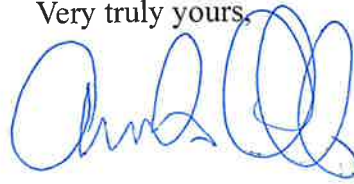
House Bill H 5219 allows for physicians to prescribe lethal doses of medication to terminally ill patients. While the organization supports personal autonomy and a patient's right to make their own medical decision, RIAJ cannot support the language in the bill. Specifically, the immunity clause located under 23-4.15-10 of the bill.

This immunity clause protects physicians from criminal or civil liability. This is detrimental for victims and their families attempting to be made whole in the event of a poorly executed procedure. While we know the intent of the bill, which is to allow people to die with dignity and end their suffering, things do not always go as planned. An unfortunate mistake could mean that rather than dying quickly, a terminally ill patient could be forced to endure a slow and painful death. If things do not go according to plan when an individual self-administers the medication prescribed by the physician, the victim and their family will not have any avenue for recourse.

RIAJ does not want to prolong the suffering for individuals with a terminal diagnosis, however, the organization cannot support this bill as written. There needs to be protections for the victim and the victim's family. By protecting physicians from liability, should things go wrong, the victim and their family will not be able to be made whole.

That being said, the Rhode Island Association for Justice opposes H 5219.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony DeSisto", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony DeSisto, Esq.