

Roberta DiMezza

From: barry schiller <bschillert358@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 1:13 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: testimony in favor of H5219 from Barry and Libby Schiller

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Dear House Judiciary Committee:

My wife Elizabeth Schiller (Libby) and I support H5219 which allows terminally ill people an option to take medicine to end their lives.

Though reasonably healthy, we are well up in our 80s, so this is not an ideological belief but a practical consideration. By this time in life we have heard many end-of-life horror stories - including as I had testified before on a similar bill, my own aunt jumping out of a senior hgh-rise when she had terminal cancer and no hope. Thus we are less afraid of death than of prolonged suffering at the end. As a couple married since 1969, this includes not just for ourselves but also for our partner of 55 years, since to see the other suffering and there is nothing effective that you can do about it, that would be horrible beyond words for both of us.

The bill as written is highly restrictive. That is understandable to prevent abuse, though experience in other states indicates abuse is very rare. For example I don't see why someone wanting this option has to wait at least 15 days between requests. So though we understand it is not likely that we would ever make use of the option, knowing it exists could bring some comfort to people in their 80s.

At previous hearings we heard someone claiming to speak for disabled people testify in opposition. Libby has a recognized mobility disability and she notes that nobody from the disability world asked her opinion about this. She sees opposition to the bill as taking away a possible option for people with disabilities just as it would for everyone else.

For those who don't believe in this end of life choice, don't use this option, but please give us the option of legally terminating our life to avoid needless suffering..

We thank the sponsors for their compassion, and the Committee for considering our views

Barry and Elizabeth Schiller
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