



TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO 2025 – H5219 ASSISTED SUICIDE
2/11/25 HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

While proponents now prefer to call it by other names, House Bill 5219 seeks to legalize a practice described in the Rhode Island Criminal Code as “Assisted Suicide” (RIGL 11-60). Assisted Suicide is not medicine. It is bad public policy that puts unsuspecting people at risk. It is a recipe for abuse of the elderly, for the inhumane treatment of individuals regarded as a burden, and for exploitation of any one of us who may have possessions coveted by potential heirs. And it perverts the practice of medicine from healing life to terminating life.

The Rhode Island State Right to Life Committee believes that the concern of the State of Rhode Island should be to improve access to legitimate care for all Rhode Islanders, especially those who are most vulnerable and in need. We ask you to oppose this assisted suicide bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Barth E. Bracy