

Roberta DiMezza

From: Jessica Rodgers <jessica@patientsrightsaction.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 4:33 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. Hopkins, Marie A.; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Testimony opposing H 5219
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Thank you, honorable members of the committee. I'm Jessica Rodgers, the Coalitions Director for the Patients Rights Action Fund. I am here to ask you to reject H. 5219.

As a social worker and a caregiver to my mother with a terminal illness I've seen hopelessness and never once was the appropriate response to say "you're right, the world would be better off without you"

You've heard a lot about the slippery slope of assisted suicide, but I'm here to tell you those concerns are not hypothetical. Oregon shows what horrible policy this would be in Delaware. The Oregon state report is littered with "unknown." Was anyone present at time of ingestion? Unknown. Did the patients have capacity or suffer complications? Unknown. How long did it take them to die? Unknown. For those we DO know about, death took up to one HUNRRED and thirty seven hours.

Patients request suicide not for pain, but largely due to natural fears of being a burden. Yet, prescribing doctors refer for a mental health evaluation less than one percent of the time.

The actual application of this policy subverts what voters and legislators agree to.

In practice, any patient who would die within six months WITHOUT treatment is considered qualified. That's why young women in Oregon and Colorado have been given lethal drugs for ANOREXIA despite being a mental health diagnosis.

This is not a matter of self-determination, but of the state imposing a discriminatory policy that carves out some people, our most vulnerable neighbors, as being suitable for state-sanctioned suicide.

Please oppose H 5219.

Thank you.

Jessica Rodgers
Coalitions Director
Patients Rights Action Fund
jessica@patientsrightsaction.org

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)