

Roberta DiMezza

From: Kathleen Ervin <kmervin1212@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2025 7:30 PM
To: Roberta DiMezza
Subject: Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act

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Hello:

As I am unable to attend the public hearing on the Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act (H5219/S151), I am writing in support of the Act.

My husband died in 2023 at the age of 61, having suffered from a variety of ailments during his last 20 years. During that time he spoke pragmatically about his desire to have the power to determine his own means of leaving this world. It seemed impossible that it not be of his choice. In the end, he passed away in his sleep and was saved the alternative.

Now, as a widow with no children and a history of Alzheimer's Disease in my family, I similarly worry that I will become ill and not have control over my own life, and its end. The government should not have the power to restrict my personal decisions in that matter.

Our country prides itself on supporting individual freedom and responsibility. There are no more profound and fundamental issues for which we deserve that freedom and responsibility than those which involve the sovereignty of our own bodies.

I thank the lawmakers who have worked so passionately on this issue. I hope -- and trust -- that the State of Rhode Island will join the other states who have provided their constituents with the means of choosing Death with Dignity, beginning with moving this bill out of committee and on for further discussion and a vote.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Ervin
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