

ATTN: House Judiciary Committee

RE: Support of the Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act  
(H5219)

I am writing in support of bill number H5219. I have been supportive of the organization Compassion and Choices since watching my dad die twelve years ago after months of great suffering without the opportunity to access medical aid in dying, which would have allowed him to die with the dignity that he deserved and would have preferred.

I attended the House Judiciary Committee hearing on this bill about a year ago and gave testimony in person, and was very disappointed that the hearing resulted in no action and the bill was sent back “for further study”. There were many more individuals testifying in support of the bill than against it. Medical aid in dying is a well understood procedure that has been tested for many years in a number of states with great success. Guard rails have been provided to ensure that the procedure is not abused and not forced on those who don’t want it. I don’t understand what “further study” could possibly be done – there are plenty of statistics available.

The interminable delay in passing this important legislation is denying Rhode Island residents the right to die in peace and without unnecessary suffering. I moved to RI from MA four years ago, and I love living here and look forward to spending my retirement years here. However, I will move back if MA passes this legislation first. The right to die peacefully should be a basic human right and it is extremely important to me.

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