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From: Monica <Monica700@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:00 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Oppose H5219

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My name is Monica Leandre. I live in North Providence. I am writing to OPPOSE Rhode Island House Bill 2025-H5219.

There is nothing compassionate about killing someone or helping him kill himself. The word compassion means “to suffer with.” When you truly show compassion for someone, you walk alongside him in his pain. Please don’t be fooled by the words and ideas that don’t express what they mean. We need our legislatures to protect us, not kill us. Those who are sick, disabled, and near death, are weak and vulnerable. The emotional pain they are in can skew decisions. They are at a time when they need those around them who have a more objective view to help them see clearly when they feel that they can’t. We as a society cannot let them, in that moment of weakness, give into this distorted desire for death. This is not really helping that person when they’re at their weakest. This is when their lives need to be protected! Suicide is a reaction to a problem and a true cry for help.

A top reason that assisted suicide is contemplated or chosen is because the person feels they are a “burden to loved ones.” Although I cannot attend the hearing this week, in the past, it has actually made me sad to hear people testify and say things like “I don’t want my spouse to have to care for me when my health has deteriorated.” Your spouse should be the one person that you can rely on to always help you, never hurt you, and never think that you are such a burden that your death becomes a better alternative.

Legalizing suicide puts others in jeopardy who never wanted suicide. Suicide is the cheaper way out. Health insurance companies have already started to opt for this cheaper form of so called “healthcare” and refused to provide care for those who legitimately want care. Personally, I fear for my life if offering to kill someone becomes a standard response to illness or old age. I have also witnessed family members and others struggle with depression and mental illness. It grieves me to think that we could live in a society where those who need love, support, and true compassion are guided to their death.

If you, as legislators, could vote in such a way that will kill us instead of protect us, then we don’t need you. If our doctors are going to do anything that will kill us, then we no longer need doctors. The concern of the State of Rhode Island should be to improve access to real health care for all, especially those who are most vulnerable. Please oppose 2025-H5219 and all attempts to lead Rhode Island down this treacherous path.

Thank you,
Monica Leandre