

Roberta DiMezza

From: Rebecca O'keefe <rokforgod@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2025 3:57 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: Assisted Suicide bill, H5219
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Dear Representatives,

My name is Rebecca O'Keefe and I live in Warwick. I wish to state my strong opposition to H5219, the House bill that proposes the legalization of assisted suicide in Rhode Island.

My primary opposition to this bill is due to my belief in the sanctity of all innocent human life, but I am also opposed because of the experience in other states, such as Oregon and California, where health insurance companies have informed patients that they will not pay for treatment that extends life, but will pay for assisted suicide.

As a senior citizen, this is especially troubling to me. When an elderly person is faced with serious illness they need the reassurance that they will be supported by their community. The threat of withholding treatment due to cost is coercive and abusive. It is, however, inevitable that the legalization of assisted suicide would come to this, as insurance companies and state and federal governments are always looking to control costs.

I respectfully ask you to re-think any support you may have for this bill. Thank you so much for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Rebecca O'Keefe

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Warwick, RI 02888