

FROM THE DESK OF

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DENISE DOOLEY

January 22, 2024

I am a constituent of Brooklyn Park MN. wishing to give my voice to the Bill (on assisted suicide) coming up for hearing on Thursday 1-25-24. The body of this letter comes from a friend of mine working in healthcare, but, having experienced the loss of my parents in the last couple years I agree with the sentiment exactly. I can tell you that passing this bill will further destroy families.

So much grace occurs during the period of time when people are facing a terminal condition. It is a time when defenses are allowed to be relaxed and individuals often have conversations in a depth that could not have happened without the faced challenges. There is a profound trust and bond that forms and character development in all parties participating in the relationship and terminal "adventure" (or journey). In my experience, most people are not afraid of pain once they are working with a caring healthcare team. We have great science in providing pain relief today so that really isn't a common issue requiring escalating death.

In assisted suicide the individual **is trying to hang on to what they believe is autonomy**, but it is really a lonely exit because they have discarded the compassion (suffering with) of loved ones. **Assisted suicide gives into despair, which we are constantly trying to fight against in healthcare.** It is not civil to kill yourself. It is worse to make someone an **accomplice** and it ends a safe and supportive healthcare system and ultimately society.

Sincerely yours,

Denise Dooley

Brooklyn Park Mn

Sender Name