

PLEASE HEAR US!

I am Rebecca Pratt, I am from Elk River, District 30(B)

I am opposed to the bill, and any legal action that would legalize assisted suicide. We are at your mercy to allow us to continue to show mercy and care to those who are suffering from terminal illness or mental illness.

I have seven immediate family members who suffer from mental illnesses. I can testify that at one point or another all of them have felt like they wanted the suffering to end. But I am praising God that none of them were given the option nor was it suggested by their medical care providers that they end their lives. Instead, we were able to care for them and show compassion and mercy and they have been able to enjoy life.

Suicide has horrible and lasting effects on the family members of those lost to it. I have witnessed it firsthand by observing and feeling those effects in the families of close friends. Family and friend's lives are shattered. Death is a crashing blow to families and the affects are felt for generations.

The ramifications of physician assisted suicide have been seen around the world. Most recently in the UK when the life of Alfie Evans was ended because of doctor's decisions that his life wasn't worth the care needed. In the end not only was he denied medical care, but he was denied nutrition and hydration, a cruel and painful way to die. Assisted suicide is a slippery slope to becoming euthanasia for our weakest and most vulnerable.

PLEASE represent our desires to protect life! To teach our children that human life is a gift to be cherished, not disposable at our whims or the whims of others. Please don't allow us to become a state that allows or require our health care providers to make the decisions of life or death. Let them continue to practice the art of life-saving care!

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Pratt
11891 191st Ave NW
Elk River, MN 55330
320-339-9882