

January 24, 2024

Dear House Health Policy and Finance Committee,

Citizens of Minnesota should be free to choose how they live – and when the time comes, how they die. This private, personal decision should belong to all of us, free from government interference.

The Minnesota End-of-Life Option Act would allow a terminally ill, mentally capable adult to request medication from a doctor that the person may self-ingest at a time of his or her choosing, should suffering becomes unbearable.

Ten other states and Washington, D.C., (22% of the population nationwide) have authorized medical aid in dying, and the time is now for Minnesota to provide this option for the terminally ill. Too many suffer needlessly, endure unrelenting pain, or resort to violent means at the end of life when medical aid could help them die peacefully.

Please vote YES on Minnesota End-of-Life Option Act and allow people who are terminally ill and of sound mind, to consider this end-of-life option.

Our laws need to evolve so that we protect the decisions and freedoms of patients and citizens at the end of their lives. The time has come for the citizens of Minnesota to have access to this compassionate option. I urge you to vote YES on Minnesota End-of-Life Option Act. There are many provisions in the Act to prevent any type of abuse or overreach.

My father passed away in August, 2023 after being in hospice for one month. He was 90 years old and suffering from complications from diabetes, coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, chronic kidney disease and he had a stroke recently. On July 4, 2023 he asked my sister and I to come down to the hospital; he let us know that he had made the decision to enter hospice care. I think he thought once he made the decision and went off his insulin and numerous medications it would be a relatively quick process for him to die.

It was not, our mother spent everyday at the hospital from 7:00 AM to at least 7:00 PM. He was unable to receive hospice care at home and there wasn't a facility available initially to receive him, so he spent over a week in the hospital. Once he was accepted at a facility that took VA benefits, he was transferred. They did their best to keep him comfortable but during the night he fell out of bed on multiple occasions and once my mom found him on the floor when she went to visit him. She was upset and the next few weeks seemed like a few years. Unfortunately, my dad passed away approximately 30 minutes after my mom had left for the evening and she felt terrible that he died alone. She had returned to his room soon after leaving that night because she forgot something and found him deceased.

He went into hospice to take the burden off my mom and our family, it sped up the inevitable, but the Minnesota End-of-Life Option Act will truly allow people to control the end of their lives if they wish to do so. I don't know if my father would have qualified for this end-of-life option but I believe it needs to become law in Minnesota.

Thank you for your service to our state.

Sincerely,
Paul Bullard
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