

To Whom it May Concern:

I am strongly opposed to HF 1930, Physician Assisted Suicide, that is being proposed and discussed this afternoon by your committee. This is not Minnesota nice but Minnesota deadly. Your proposal is opening a pandora's box with no return – pun intended. Minnesota would be much wiser to be looking at how to make palliative and hospice care more readily available to all areas of our state. It would also be going against the Hippocratic Oath that doctors take which is to heal people. The way some of this bill is proposed, the medical communities involved would not be allowed a conscience protection clause.

Many of us have been involved in the care of a dying family member. Yes, watching someone suffer is never easy, but is absolutely a time where great love is shown to the patient, and often a lot of healing of relationships. This would all be gone as no family notification would be necessary in your proposal, there no safeguards against elder abuse, and someone could easily coerce a sick person, one with mental health issues or other disabilities that they don't want to be a burden, and this would be the best option. This is so wrong and certainly does not affirm the dignity of life accorded each and every individual from the time they are conceived to their natural death.

Your bill presumes this is an individual and personal decision. Death affects many people, and you now want to end life when the going gets tough. We need to learn love, compassion, and the dignity of each person in all the stages instead of deciding who should live and die. This is exactly what this bill would lead our state towards. Please do not allow this bill in any way, shape, or form to advance. It supports a culture of death, not compassionate care and love.

Sincerely,

Mary Cay Pepin
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