

(I have been trying to get this through since before 12:00)

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in opposition to bill HB 5417

If I had the whole day to tell you what I have witnessed in the course of hundreds of peoples natural dying process, it would not be enough time and there would not be adequate words to describe the gift that nature herself allows to unfold when someone chooses the natural dying process.

Pain and discomfort are very real and can be very well controlled, as we have heard. If someone decides to take his or her life, he/she does not need a doctor's prescription to do that. The emotional and moral implications of such a decision will not be impacted by law. Emotional and moral implications and consequences in all things are above the law.

That fact aside, the choice to take one's own life is a choice to deprive oneself of some of the most profound, humbling, beautiful and lasting experiences of one's entire life. I have had this conversation with countless widows, widowers, children, parents and siblings, and not one of them would trade one moment of the process of their loved one or chose to have had it happen any other way. Every tear, every aching heart for someone they love, every fear of not being able to do what needed to be done, came to fruition in a peaceful, loving and beautiful death that could never be calculated or pre-determined.

We owe it to each other to provide and assure all people of this one last gift in the experience of life.

Please oppose Bill No. 5417

Catherine Clarke