

Dr. and Mrs. Timothy Shannon
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To Public Health Committee:

Re:
H.B. No. 5417 (Raised) An Act Concerning End of Life Care.

We write this letter to oppose any consideration of the legalization of assisted suicide /end of life care.

No one has the right to decide who lives and who dies.

As a nurse and physician who have cared for patients as they underwent challenging cancer drug research phases and at the end of their lives, we strongly believe it is morally and ethically responsible to keep these complicated and personal decisions within the family and between the family and the health care team. Physicians and nurses are trained to care for, treat and heal patients, not to end their lives. This bill violates the oath that a physician takes when they enter the medical profession. It is a life choice that should be made by those closest to the situation, who understand all that is involved personally and medically. It is dangerous to complicate this with legislation. The comfort and dignity of the patient and family should always be the center of this discussion, not to be complicated by any law.

I hope each member of this committee has the wisdom to oppose any legalization of assisted suicide and end of life.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine and Tim Shannon

