

Submitter: Kevin Fecteau

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

Over the last 5 years and through COVID I had to shepherd my parents to their final rest. My mothers cancer spread to her brain from Lung cancer after unsuccessful treatment. Fortunately for us we found Hospice care that provided compassionate support for her last four months. She had pain and discomfort but through well managed treatment her pain was minimal and most times suppressed without her losing consciousness and fully aware of what was happening. Had we (my mother and the family) looked at deciding when she would die, she would not have had the time to see her first Great Grandchild and one last time to visit with the entire family. Through all the pain of suffering and pending loss, she was able to endure with grace and support of family around. With modern medicine we can enable most terminally ill people to pass naturally with dignity and comfort. My father passed from dementia, and with the ever expanding medicines that stave off the inevitable loss, it allowed him to keep is awareness of who he was and where he was until he passed last April of 2024. Further, elderly and the terminally ill will be exposed to those who would force their choice of taking a life due to costs or not wanting to deal with the loss of family member, loved or not so loved. We claim the patient gets the choice and other safe guards. Assisted suicide is not a safe guard but a convivence for the state to look and save on costs of managing healthcare on the back of the elderly and terminally ill. Forcing this option rules out all chance of working toward a cure or a dignified departure. It's cold, brutal and takes from the dignity of the human spirit to decide on their last natural breath. It will inevitably leave families asking "What if?" I definitely oppose this bill and it should be terminate with prejudice.