

Submitter: Thomas Lawrence
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1003

As a citizen of this state, I find it extraordinary that we want to turn doctors and pharmacists into executioners but we refuse to execute murders who have earned the death penalty. The hypocrisy and upside down ethics is mind-boggling.

As a pastor, who regularly interacts with people who are diagnosed with terminal illness, I understand the desire to ameliorate pain and suffering. However, we already have an amazing ability to do that through hospice and palliative care. Why undermine our laws and ethics concerning suicide by carving out an exception? We send a terrible message to those who are suffering that, while most people shouldn't commit suicide because their life is worth saving, your life isn't.

As the father of a child with serious mental illness, and as someone who has experienced clinical depression myself, I am intimately acquainted with the despair that would cause someone to prefer death to life. It's at the moment, regardless of the cause, that we need to rally around a person with support and care, not hand them the means to escape.

I strongly oppose the existing law, as well as this further amendment to it.

Sincerely,
Thomas M Lawrence
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