

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** Barbara Evans <bonnie@bonnieevansdoula.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 3, 2025 3:22 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee; Rep. Shekarchi, K Joseph  
**Subject:** House Bill 7100 - Physician Aid in Dying

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To RI State Legislators:

I read that House Bill 7100 for Medical Aid In Dying (MAID)/Physician Aid in Dying has been reintroduced. I have worked as a geriatric nurse practitioner in palliative care and hospice for over 25 years. In my personal and professional experience, there are some individuals who reach a point in their terminal disease when the quality of their lives and their suffering is such that they are ready to die. They are already dying, but want some control over where and when. Without that option, I have seen people hoard pills, consider more violent means, or just stop eating and drinking which can take up to 2 weeks or more. For some, just knowing that this option is available, should they ever need it, can be reassuring. Continued efforts to improve end of life care, along with hospice and palliative care services is also critical. However, there are some individuals whose suffering cannot be relieved despite the best of care and support.

I wrote an article for the East Bay Newspaper on MAID last year and the link is below. It reflects my support for MAID as long as there are consistent guidelines and oversight. I prefer it being called MAID or Death with Dignity. The term "Physician Assisted Suicide" has actually been opposed by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, the American Medical Women's Assoc., American Medical Student Assoc., American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Public Health Assoc.

I support the efforts to pass this bill in the RI legislature and I have stories to share.

I also knew Lila Sapinsley and her interest in this bill back in 2015

<https://eastbayri.com/stories/death-with-dignity-being-considered-in-rhode-island,110282>



### 'Death with Dignity' being considered in Rhode Island

Brittany Maynard was a 29-year-old woman with a terminal brain tumor who took her story to the media in 2014. She lived in California but relocated to Oregon, which at the time was one of only three states that had a death with dignity law.

eastbayri.com

Respectfully,  
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