

Testimony in support of H7760: LILA MANFIELD SAPINSLEY COMPASSIONATE CARE ACT

Barbara Walsh, 62 Frederick Street, Warwick, RI 02888

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To: Chair McEntee and the honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Please support H7760. I believe the essence of this bill is about choice. Many people have conflicting opinions, but the main issue here is when laws either prohibit or allow the exercise of one's choice over their own body or future. This is a very narrow bill affecting only those experiencing a terminal illness and with the mental capacity to understand what is in their own best interest. I do not see how we could not trust the judgements of such folks and instead decide that our own judgement and choices for our own decisions must legally be used against those who disagree. The targeted individuals in this bill cannot have mental illness, so for those who have experienced loses because of mental illness may be a tragedy for them, but it is not relevant here. Anyone can commit suicide at any time But the issue here is only if there is an imminent terminal illness and the patient is requesting a method that would be humane and dignified. Should they have such a choice?