

TO: Chair and Members of the House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Daniel O'Brien, Warwick Resident
RE: OPPOSITION to H 7760 – Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act
DATE: April 28, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to express my **opposition to H 7760**. Anything remotely related to the intentional ending of human life is morally wrong. The state has a fundamental duty to protect the sanctity of every human life, and **no law should ever sanction, facilitate, or legitimize the deliberate hastening of death.**

Of particular concern is Section 23-4.15-12, which attempts to legislatively redefine the intentional ending of a life by stating it “shall not be construed for any purpose to constitute suicide, assisted suicide, mercy killing, or homicide under the law.” This provision creates a **legal fiction** that masks the reality of the act and fundamentally undermines the state’s commitment to the preservation of life. Regardless of the labels applied in this bill, the self-administration of a lethal dose for the purpose of hastening the patient’s death remains an act of **suicide**.

Furthermore, the bill endangers vulnerable individuals through its dangerously flawed procedural requirements. Under Section 23-4.15-3, the bill requires physicians to admit to patients that a terminal life expectancy is merely an “estimate... and is not a guarantee,” and that the patient “could live longer than the time predicted.” Despite this admitted uncertainty, the bill allows an “interested person,” including a financial heir who stands to inherit the patient’s estate, to serve as one of the witnesses to a patient’s written request for death. This creates a structural conflict of interest that no amount of regulation can justify.

Finally, Section 23-4.15-4 lays bare the true immorality of this bill. It shields anyone who witnesses a patient self-administering a lethal dose from any liability for failing to prevent the act or for not rendering aid afterward. This provision mandates the abandonment of patients in their most vulnerable final moments and is a radical departure from the moral and legal duty to assist those in grave physical harm. Every human life has intrinsic value, and suicide is a tragedy that must be prevented, not facilitated. **I urge the committee to uphold the sanctity of life and reject this legislation in its entirety.**

Sincerely,

Daniel O'Brien