

TO: [Chair McEntee and members of the House Judiciary Committee](#)

CC: [Representative Jennifer Boylan](#), [Representative Jason Knight](#), [Senator Pamela J. Lauria](#)

FROM: Francois I. Luks, MD, PhD

RE: Support for [H7760](#)

DATE: April 26, 2026

Chair McEntee and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee,

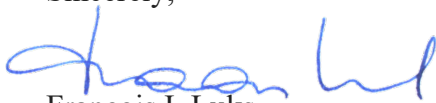
My name is Francois Luks. I live in Barrington, RI. I am writing to urge you to support H7760 (Ajello), which would establish the process to provide a legal mechanism whereby a terminally ill patient may choose to end their life using medications prescribed by a physician.

I am a surgeon and have been in practice in Rhode Island for more than 30 years. As a physician, I have always strived to help patients – to cure them when possible, and to ease their pain and suffering. There is indescribable joy in helping someone become healthy again. Unfortunately, that is not always possible. I have also been confronted many times with untreatable, terminal diseases and death. Where cure is no longer possible, medical assistance and support of a person's dignity and comfort are still our duty. In some cases, this means respecting their wish to control their own destiny as they face the inevitable.

The wish to die with dignity has a personal connection for me. My own mother suffered from an incurable, terminal disease. In her last months, she suffered excruciating pain and was confined to her hospital bed. She was an intelligent woman and remained lucid and determined, even as she faced impending death: she had made it clear repeatedly that, when the time came, she would want to go on her own terms. She made her wishes very clearly known to her physician, on two separate occasions, one month apart; being sound of mind, she signed the consent forms, witnessed by several individuals other than her doctor; and she was allowed to pass away in peace and dignity. Knowing that she would not be subjected to an escalation of therapeutic measures against her will gave her comfort in the end. Seeing her gently fade away after saying her final goodbyes to loved ones greatly helped us in these moments of sadness. This was possible because she lived in Belgium, where euthanasia has been legal, and strictly codified, for decades.

Having witnessed first-hand how, in carefully selected situations, hastening death can give great comfort and dignity to a patient suffering from terminal, incurable disease, I am in strong favor of the Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act. I urge you to pass this bill out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,



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