

Roberta DiMezza

From: Greta Francis <fgreta361@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2026 6:43 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Cc: Rep. Baginski, Jacquelyn M.; Sen. Vargas, Lammis J.; Francis Greta
Subject: Testimony in support of the Compassionate Care Act

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TO: Chair McEntee and members of the House Judiciary Committee

Email: HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov

CC: Jacquelyn Baginski and Lammis Vargas

FROM: Greta Francis, Ph.D.

RE: Support for H7760

DATE: April 26, 2026

Chair McEntee and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Greta Francis and I live in Edgewood. I am a clinical child and adolescent psychologist who has lived and worked in Rhode Island for just shy of 40 years.

I am writing to urge you to support H7790 (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. For the first time in my life, I am witnessing the suffering of a dear colleague who recently was diagnosed with ALS. Her illness has no cure. Those with ALS lose control of their bodies while their minds remain fully intact. This is a devastating and cruel illness.

Medical aid in dying would allow a patient to choose to end their life using medications prescribed by a physician. There are multiple safeguards in this process, and our neighbors in Vermont have had access to medical aid in dying for 10 years. While not all patients who gain access to medication choose to use the medication to end their lives, just having the option provides tremendous comfort to them as they struggle with the unimaginable challenges of fatal illnesses like ALS.

I implore you to support this bill. Please pass this bill out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,

Greta Francis, Ph.D., Edgewood

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