

Anabella Mayorga

From: Jean Ernster <jernster7@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 3:57 PM
To: Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Hopkins, Marie A.; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Opposition to 2026-H7760
Attachments: Oppose 2026-H7760.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Jean M. Ernster. I reside at 100 Ferry Lane in Barrington, RI 02806. I write to you today to register my opposition to any bill that seeks to legalize Assisted Suicide in the state of Rhode Island. Please oppose 2026-H7760, Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act.

There are so many reasons to oppose this bill however, first and foremost it is never morally licit to deliberately kill someone else or oneself. This bill allows for deliberately ending the life of innocent persons who may not be in the dying process.

The misnomer, "Compassionate Care Act" is misleading. Compassion means to suffer with someone, not to affirm their fear and insecurities surrounding becoming a burden to others and help them end their lives. It means to lovingly provide comfort and care to the end of one's natural life.

Second, to change the role of healthcare provider and physician from that of facilitating life-affirming care to that of assisting in ending the life of living persons sets a dangerous precedent.

In countries that have passed similar legislation, such as Canada, despite the intent to establish "safeguards" to make assisted suicide, legal, safe, and rare we have conversely witnessed the safeguards give way to expansion of assisted suicide to persons who are not dying nor who have terminal illness. This is a travesty.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and consider my opposition to 2026-H7760.

Sincerely,
Jean Ernster