

## Ariana Costa

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**From:** Monica <Monica700@verizon.net>  
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My name is Monica Leandre. I live in North Providence. I am writing in opposition of **House Bill 2026-H7760**.

There is nothing compassionate about ending a life or helping someone end his own. Real compassion means staying with someone in their suffering, not eliminating the sufferer. When people are sick, disabled, or near death, they are scared and vulnerable. And the data from states where this is legal shows that physical pain isn't even the main reason people ask for assisted suicide — it's emotional pain, fear, and feeling like a burden. In those moments, people need protection, support, and reassurance, not a state-sanctioned path to suicide.

One of the most heartbreaking motivations behind assisted suicide is the belief that a person has become a burden. I have heard people testify that they don't want their spouse or family to have to care for them. But needing care does not make someone a burden. Loved ones should be the people we can rely on most — the ones who would never see our care needs as an inconvenience so great that death becomes preferable. Every time this bill is introduced, it reinforces the harmful idea that dependence makes a life less valuable.

Supporters often talk about including "safeguards" in the bill. But the very need for safeguards should be a warning. If a law requires layers of protection to prevent abuse, coercion, or tragic mistakes, that alone shows how dangerous it is. In other states, insurance companies have already denied treatment while approving lethal drugs because it is cheaper. That is not compassion. It is abandonment.

I have personally watched loved ones struggle with depression and mental illness. The idea that our state could one day guide people in pain toward death instead of support is heartbreaking. Those who are suffering need care, presence, and real medical help, not a prescription for their own death.

Rhode Island should be working to expand access to genuine healthcare: palliative care, mental-health services, and support for the disabled, not creating a legal process for suicide.

For these reasons, I urge you to **oppose H7760** and any other similar effort in order to protect the most vulnerable among us.

Thank you,  
Monica Leandre