

TO: Chair McEntee and members of the House Judiciary Committee

Email: HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov

CC: Jennifer Boylan rep-boylan@rilegislature.gov ; Jason Knight rep-knight@rilegislature.gov ;
Pamela J. Lauria sen-lauria@rilegislature.gov

FROM: Monique E. De Paepe, M.D., M.Sc.

RE: Support for The Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act bill H7760

DATE: 4/27/2026

Chair McEntee and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Monique De Paepe. I live in Barrington.

I am writing to urge you to support H7760, 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.

As a pathologist with more than three decades of experience, I am quite familiar with death – and its inevitability. Nonetheless, one thing really scares me about my personal future end-of-life experience, and that is: the possibility of not being able to have a say in the when, where and how I will die, should I develop a debilitating or painful incurable disease. I have witnessed the medically aided dying of both my mother and mother-in-law (both with terminal illness). Their peace of mind during the later stages of their illness, knowing that the option of medical assistance was available to them, and their humane, peaceful, controlled and dignified passing surrounded by their family, once they had decided their time had come, will always remain a comforting memory to me.

Citizens of Rhode Island should be free to decide how they live and how they die, free from government interference. I strongly support the H 7760 The Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act so that all terminally ill, mentally capable adults may have the option to end their lives the way my mothers did, namely: by requesting medication from a doctor at the time of their choice, once they determine the suffering has become unbearable.

It is time for Rhode Island to follow the example of about a dozen other US states by providing the option of medical aid in dying to the terminally ill, thus preventing the unsavory alternatives, namely: unrelenting suffering, self-inflicted violent deaths, or tragic trips to Vermont.

Please pass this bill out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage,

Thank you for your service to our state,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "De Paepe", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. The signature is set against a light gray, textured rectangular background.

Monique E. De Paepe, M.D., M.Sc.
Barrington RI 02806