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April 28, 2026

House Judiciary Committee
HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov

In support of House Bill 7760, Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act

Dear Committee Members:

I have seen death. I have seen the deaths of my parents in their 90s.

From my life experience, I have learned:

1. The decision of when to die is the ultimate civil liberty — it needs no outside interference:
 - not from the state;
 - least of all from organized religion;
2. The only public concern should be preventing abuse.

Regarding item #2, let me add that there are **no substantiated cases of abuse** since Oregon's law took effect almost three decades ago. There is, however, a substantial and consistent body of sociological research showing that motivations are typically:¹

- loss of autonomy;
- loss of dignity;
- loss of control;
- not primarily financial distress or lack of care.²

For all these reasons, I support this bill and urge you to do the same. I also wonder how many more years of “further study” this ultimate civil rights issue must endure.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Nightingale, Emeritus Professor of Physics

¹ *Why Oregon Patients Request Assisted Death: Family Members' Views* <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2265314/>

² *Legal physician-assisted dying in Oregon and the Netherlands: evidence concerning the impact on patients in “vulnerable” groups* — <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2652799/>