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From: Pierre Masse <pierreg5461@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 8:57 AM
Subject: Assisted Suicide is the wrong move for RI

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To:
The Judiciary Committee
From: A very concerned citizen

Discussion of, and any move toward, a formal vote to make assisted suicide a protected right in Rhode Island is deeply concerning. I strongly oppose such a measure and respectfully ask you to reject it.

We are learning more each year about troubling consequences in jurisdictions that have already taken this step. In Canada, where assisted suicide has been legalized under the MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying) program, a growing number of physicians, ethicists, and citizens have expressed regret and concern about how the policy is unfolding in practice.

Two examples from the public record illustrate these concerns:

- There have been documented cases in which individuals with disabilities reported feeling pressured toward assisted death due to lack of adequate social supports. In widely reported instances, patients cited poverty, housing insecurity, or inability to access proper care as contributing factors in choosing MAID rather than purely medical suffering.
- Veterans Affairs Canada acknowledged cases in which staff inappropriately suggested assisted suicide to military veterans seeking help for conditions like PTSD or physical injuries. This prompted national outrage and official investigations, raising serious questions about safeguards and institutional culture.

Other countries that have legalized assisted suicide have also encountered issues such as coercion, subtle pressure on vulnerable individuals, and the risk of normalizing death as a solution to suffering. Concerns have been raised about inheritance dynamics, where family members—intentionally or not—may influence decisions made by elderly or dependent relatives.

Suffering is real. Illness is difficult. But a society's response to suffering matters. If our solution becomes to hasten death rather than expand care, compassion, and support, we risk eroding our shared sense of dignity and responsibility to one another.

Rhode Island should take a different path—one that prioritizes care, protection, and solidarity with the most vulnerable among us.

I urge you to reject this proposal in favor of policies that uphold human dignity and strengthen our commitment to assist, not abandon, those in need.

Sincerely,

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