

Roberta DiMezza

From: Gretchen White <pearsonwhite@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 11:38 AM
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
Cc: Rep. Cotter, Megan L.
Subject: Compassionate Care Act -- H7760

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RI legislators:

My name is Eric Pearson and I lived in Richmond RI. I am writing to oppose this bill and anything similar, and encourage you to vote against it, for the following reasons:

1. Compassionate anecdotes are compelling, but a bigger picture must be pre-eminent.
2. The bill targets the most vulnerable.
3. Eligibility limitations always expand, as shown in current laws in Oregon, California, Canada and Europe. Many of these now include the disabled and children.
4. Despite safeguards, mistakes in diagnoses, abuse and coercion will follow.
5. This is a pathway for a patient to end his own life by his own hand, which is by definition suicide.
6. Defining suicide as not suicide, per the proposed legislation, is bureaucratic doublespeak.
7. This bill extends the prevalent philosophy of personal autonomy from all societal norms and constraints.
8. The lessons of history on this idea are clear and belie any arguments for enlightened thinking and compassion.
9. Government and medicine in alliance to allow suicide is bad public policy and a dangerous precedent.
10. Instead of deliberately ending life, our efforts should be directed to improving end of life care.

Eric Pearson
21 Boulder Drive
Carolina, RI 02812