

Testimony of support for Senate Bill No. 2872

My name is Ellen Lenox Smith, and I am a 76-year-old resident of North Scituate, RI. I am writing in favor of Senate Bill No. 2872, which establishes the process to provide a legal mechanism whereby a terminally ill patient may choose to end their life using medications prescribed by a physician. I have suffered for years now with a condition called Ehlers-Danlos that has changed the course of my life. I have endured twenty-nine surgeries, lived four years in a wheelchair, lost my career of teaching I adored, and much more. But I have chosen to live this difficult life with as much dignity as I have been able to muster. When my time comes towards the end of my stay on this earth that offers no more hope, I would appreciate knowing that I would have the option to legally choose to end my suffering. But clearly, this would mean I was at a stage where there is nothing left to sustain my life. To be able to leave my painful life safely would bring much peace and comfort to people like me.

I hope you understand this does not mean I would rush to do this process, and possibly never would. I have had a good life despite my challenges, but would appreciate knowing this was there to turn to.

Thank you for reading this, and I am happy to talk about this with anyone who has concerns or questions.

Sincerely
Ellen Lenox Smith
319 Elmdale Road
N Scituate, RI 02857
401-474-0115