

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Patricia James and I support the End-Of-Life Options Act. I am a retired Registered Nurse specializing for over forty years in Behavioral Health. Today I am going to talk about my Father William Pollock and myself.

My Father had been forever terrified of a difficult death. He believed that since I was an RN I would be able to intervene and he would beg me to promise I would do that. I could not make that promise to help him that way. My Father's life ended after almost three years in a Nursing Home. He had such fear and anxiety and agitation that the staff was unable to contain him and assure his safety. Because of these safety issues they placed him in a pen. That is where he died, in a pen, in a nursing home, alone.

If you have lived through a long and difficult death of a loved one you already know that the family and friends of the one who is dying are rendered helpless. They often experience guilt and shame that they couldn't do more. That is what happens to families when there is no other option. I will always feel that I failed him when he needed me most. It doesn't have to be that way when you, PASS THIS BILL.

Having been a nurse for XX years, I know about caring for the dying. My time to die is coming. I have stage 3 lung cancer. I know how I don't want to die, in pain and struggling to breathe, fearful and frantic. I know how I do want to die. I want to die here in Colorado with my family near. Today, you will make a decision that will directly affect the way I die. Your vote will decide if the way I die belongs to me or to you.

I have faith that you will honor the voices of 68% of Coloradan's who believe in options at end of life. In passing this bill, I will gain peace of mind and my quality of life for the time I have left will be improved. With the passage of this legislation I will be assured of a gentle and compassionate death. I am counting on you. Please, PASS THIS BILL.