

House Bill 1054

2-4-16, 1330

Thank you, Representatives; it is an honor to appear before you today to **speak in favor** of House Bill 1054: The Colorado End of Life Options Act. My name is Reverend Doctor Pamela Griffin Law and this is my son, Connor, a sixth grader at The Academy of Charter in Westminster, who is doing an Independent Study Project on Government and is here to see democracy in action and at its finest as politicians work to build consensus across party lines, aiming to end partisan politics, while listening to the vast opinions of their constituents from across our fine state.

In 2015, the debate on death with dignity begins to churn in Colorado and an Omnipoll indicated that 68% would vote in favor of this act. This is pertinent to your considerations, as we live in a representative democracy. M CD

In 2016, we are faced here today in the Colorado Congress to be a leader in our nation and join five other states that have legalized End of Life Options for persons with terminal illnesses with less than six months to live and competent to make the decision to refuse treatment or to take a prescribed dose of medication to bring an end to interminable suffering.

In 1947, the US Supreme Court prohibited federal, state, and local government preference or support for religion in what has become known as the Separation of Church and State Doctrine. It is, in fact, a cornerstone of American democracy that no one forces their religious views on those who do not share them. Americans enjoy the right to live life without the constraint of the religious views of others and this must be upheld.

My religious beliefs are irrelevant to this discussion as should be anyone else's.