

I am a registered nurse anesthetist who practiced for more than 30 years. I had many experiences with patients who died in terrible pain including my husband and father. I have seen patients resort to violent means of suicide, not because they wanted to end their lives ,but because they needed to end their pain.

Experts estimate that 25% - one in four-, of all cancer patients who die, do so without adequate pain relief. Why does this happen ? who is responsible ? Is it the doctors ?, the nurses, the family ,the patients themselves ? No it is the people in this room, and in this state who think they know what is best not only for themselves but also for everyone else,..

I read letters which say all life is sacred, only God can take a life. I then think about how many lives God takes each day only to have man restore that life by breaking bones, and teeth, and ribs, to restart the heart ..So that that person can live on for a few more days, and suffer, for a few more days.

I read letters from people who are disabled and afraid that this law could threaten them in some way, so they feel it should not be available for anyone. I understand their fear and so do the authors of the bill. That is why all bills of this kind have safeguards to prevent abuse either by insurance companies or greedy relatives or any other individual or group. The Oregon law has been in effect for 17 years without one documented case of misuse or abuse.

I read letters from people who are afraid that children will get hold of the drugs or that if not used they will not be properly discarded. I would be willing to bet that every person in this room has drugs, either perscription or over the counter, that could be fatal if taken by a young child. We just don't let that happen.!!!

. Think of the 68% of Coloradons who want this law, who feel they may someday NEED this law. Those who do not want it and do not need it, do not have to use it. BUT they do not have the right to deny it to those of us who do. Thank you.

LindaKing, Broomfield. CO 80023