

Untitled

james sack

Tue 2/2/2016 4:04 PM

To:james sack <jwsack@live.com>;

TESTIMONIALFeb. 3, 2016

Chairman Scott and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. My name is James Sack, from Denver, Colorado, and am here to support SB16-025

I request your support of this bill titled End-of-Life Options Act. This Act provides Colorado residents an "OPTION" for individuals suffering a terminal illness. In no way is this a mandate for dying individuals. The key word is "OPTIONS".

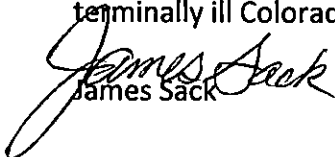
In the past families provided and cared for their elderly or disabled members. Today the common practice is to place them in a nursing home or a long term care facility. People having no families always end up in these facilities. These people have no medical options other than drugs to eliminate their pain available if they suffer from a terminal illness and constant pain. Their only current avenue is to refuse to eat or drink fluids thereby starving themselves to death.

My father, suffering from terminal cancer, selected this method. He stopped food and drink. It provided a slow death but he achieved his goal. His death was listed as dying from terminal lung cancer. There in lies the question.....did he die from lung cancer or did he commit suicide because he decided no to eat or drink fluids? Along this same line I wonder if the individual who has terminal lung, prostate or bladder cancer and refuses radiation or Chemo therapy and dies from this cancer does this individual commit suicide?

If an individual meets the strict requirements of this Bill they are afforded the opportunity to select a much more humane solution that of requesting their doctor prescribe medication hastening their death. This would allow the individual to end suffering and be surrounded by family and close friends dying in a peaceful manner.

The decision to take or not to take this medication is up to the individual. I do not want another to make my choices. In the end the only values that are important are mine.

Also by supporting this Bill the questions mentioned earlier about refusing food and drink or cancer treatments currently available would level the playing field by offering another "OPTION" to the terminally ill Colorado residents. Thank you.


James Sack