

END OF LIFE OPTIONS testimony.....

Chairman Kagan and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in favor of HB16-1054.

My name is Bev Bishop, of Westminster, and I don't represent any particular group or type of people, just myself and probably many, many ordinary people like me.

Some years back, I used to take long lunch hour walks with a coworker who is a grief counselor, and we would often talk about our experiences dealing with our elderly parents, and about...death and dying. Those walks and talks made me comfortable in bringing up the topic with others, even casually with strangers. Invariably, people I've talked to agree that, given the choice, they'd much rather end their lives themselves, painlessly, rather than dying a long and painful death when faced with a terminal illness.

That's what this bill is about: choice. The choice, when your time comes, between a swift and painless death and enduring a long and painful one. This bill is not about hypothetical insurance problems, not about a perceived political agenda, not even about whose religious interpretation is more correct. Choice: When I'm on my deathbed, I want the freedom to choose my own timing, and to choose "a good death," not one in which I'm wracked with pain and suffering, or not one in which I have to starve myself.

Please, focus on the subject at hand, committee members, and don't "what if" this bill to its death. Please vote to pass this sensible "End of Life Options" bill.