

Chairman Kagan and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. My name is Dee Sweeney, from Centennial, and I am here to support HB16-1025.⁵⁴

Four years ago, my brother Alan's cerebellar ataxia progressed to the point he suffered from vertigo 24/7, could not focus, could no longer walk, had difficulty speaking and swallowing and was very close to being unable to manage his personal hygiene. He chose death over continued suffering, and would have welcomed the choice of physician-assisted death where he could have been surrounded by those he loved. He did not have that choice. Instead, he removed himself from everyone and shot himself.

I have the same genetic disease and it affects different people in different ways. I am now a year older than he was when he died and have not experienced the same magnitude of symptoms. When and if the time comes, I want the option to choose a gentle and dignified death.

Chariman Kagan and committee members, thank you again for allowing me to speak to you. Thank you for all your work on behalf of the citizens of CO.

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