

Chairman and members of the committee, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak before you on such an important issue.

I am Beverly Sparks, a longtime resident of Wheat Ridge, I am a somatic therapist specializing in trauma release work, as well as a member of the Memorial Team and Bereavement Team at my Church, where I'm involved in the extensive Bereavement track including classes, workshops and Bereavement events. I am speaking to you today in support of HB-16-1025 from the perspective of one who deals consistently with aftermath.

I have an elderly client and friend who recently lost her husband, the family patriarch.. Being the nurse she had been her entire life, she was caring for him at home. The last two weeks of his life he fell out of bed twice, to the tune of sirens, flashing lights, invasion of emergency personnel, waking the neighbors and alerting family. Even though it's been more than a year she still wakes in high distress, thinking there is an emergency.

Recent research has shown that we, we humans, remember the end.

Three generations of this family will live out their lives remembering this end.

Even if you remove the physical pain of the one in transition, seems cruel to leave the bereaved to suffer these memories. I truly believe if we could poll our dearly departed they would vote to spare their loved ones.

I just recently "got" the distinction between physician assisted suicide, and End of life options.

Suicide is committed by those that are suicidal. The folks choosing this option are in no way suicidal, they Want to Live!! They are just taking charge and making one last choice about the way their lives will end.

I advocate for those making their transition, I am passionate about those who remain. By supporting the End of Life Options Act, I am asking you to give them one last option and choice on how they wish to die.

Chairman and committee members, I thank you for your time and welcome questions.