

Chairman Kagen; thank you and the members of this committee for your service to Colorado and for listening to me. My name is Ruth Guy, I live in Aurora and I am here to support House Bill #16-1054.

My grandmother was one of the first in her town to drive a car, to get her hair bobbed and, after her husband died, when my father was just an infant, to go to work. In fact, she worked clear into her 80s. Grandma Lucy was a truly amazing and self-sufficient woman.

But when she was 93 and in severely declining health, she kept saying that she had never wanted to live this long. She was in a nursing home and unable to lead any sort of productive life. When she fell and broke her hip, her suffering multiplied and she knew there was little hope of ever being able to walk again. My grandmother experienced too much time in that limbo state where sustaining life and prolonging death equals torture.

Because she had no alternative to the terrible pain and suffering she was in, she chose to die the only way she could; she stopped eating and drinking. She starved to death. What a slow and horrible way to die. How much more humane it would have been to take medication and gently pass away.

I truly can't imagine that anyone of us in this room would want to have to starve to death in order to end their suffering. Please pass HB 16-1054 and allow those dying Coloradan's who would seek it, the right to die in the time and manner of their choosing, to have a gentle death.

Thank you for listening to me.