

Larry Hofer

ORIGINAL

Attachment JJ

I bring you today my ethical and common sense values concerns of the corruption of the medical profession by this proposed bill, HB 1054. This bill is unnecessary.

My family members have seen evidence of doctors advising against the values of their patients.

For example: medicine advertising appearing in medical offices and then visits that bring up the possibility of using those prescriptions even if against the values of their patients and also unsolicited recommendations to use medicines against their values.

My family has seen thinly veiled attempts by payers to avoid costs rather than support their patients' values.

For example: Even in customary situations such as the birth of a baby - it took untold numbers of calls with insurance companies and payers to assure coverage.

The above are just two personal examples that indicates that medical professionals and other parties in the health care process can be overly influenced against the values of their patients by outside forces.

In addition, Dr's can be wrong in their diagnosis as has already been mentioned during today's numerous testimonies.

In another recent meeting with proponents and opponents of this bill, a supporter of this legislation had the insensitivity to bring into the discussion that in some European countries, underweight children are not provided NICU care. Really? Is this where this slippery slope can lead us to? I contend this legislation is not necessary and my examples show the thinking of some in the medical profession and their willingness to advocate beyond the intended scope of this legislation.

I hope that in 5-20 years from now we will not still be debating in court where the latest precedents that CAUSED UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES personally. I see no need for this legislation. In closing, I would like to read the letter from my daughter.

② Letter from my daughter who could not attend with her concerns of likely abuse that could affect my children and grandchildren,

I have two daughters. If House Bill <sup>1054</sup> and Senate Bill ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ get passed, I know this will affect my family deeply. My oldest daughter was born with a life long, life threatening liver condition. There is no known cure. The only treatment is a surgery very early in life, to hopefully avoid a transplant. A vast majority of kids with this need a transplant. If my daughter is ever listed for transplant, we will face a long and difficult road. If physician assisted suicide is legal in our state, I fear a number of impacts on my family. I worry that doctors will start to talk about lethal prescriptions before treatment, just as they spoke of termination before birth plans when we were pregnant. I fear we will have to fight the insurance company for the appropriate medications because of the expense, just as we have had to battle them to get her current liver medicine covered- the one that is currently keeping her liver healthy. I fear that when she turns 18, she will be sold the idea from everyone around her, that because she was born a certain way, that her life is less valuable than her sister's. I fear that doctors will counsel any depression she may or may not develop with the option of death, while if her sister were to exhibit the same mental health concerns, she would be directed towards suicide hot lines and psychiatric care. My daughters both deserve the best care possible, regardless of whatever medical conditions they may have.

Please stand up for my daughter and vote against House Bill <sup>1054</sup> and encourage everyone you know to do the same. We must all stand up against this so called "death with dignity." There is no dignity in supporting suicide for some, while others are offered counseling and treatment. Treating people's illnesses with death removes their dignity because it removes the possibility that they are worth helping with appropriate medical care. Our efforts should be focused on increasing and expanding the best in medical and palliative care, not in placing vulnerable patients in a world where suicide is a legitimate option. My daughter's value is not dependent on her medical diagnosis, or her symptoms, or even how others perceive her. My daughter has the same inherent value as her sister, as your children, as you. Our dignity is not measured in how others perceive us, but rather our dignity is the value and worth each of us already possess as a person. Death is not the answer. Treatment is.