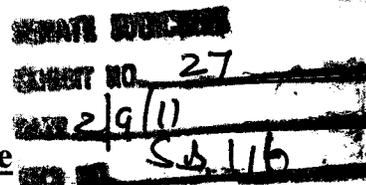


Oppose SB 116 ~ Senate Judiciary Committee
Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 8 am, Room 303



Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for your record, my name is Jane Hamman—that's HAMMAN. I am here as a private citizen who resides in Clancy.

I strongly oppose SB 116. I believe with all my heart that my end-of-life choices are my God-given right to be between me and my doctor. I believe that dying with dignity is my inalienable right.

In my opinion, it would be a serious mistake for the Montana Legislature to negate the Baxter decision of the Montana Supreme Court and to nullify the privacy provisions of our Montana Constitution with regard to death with dignity. Passage of SB 116 would mean that I and my neighbors could be compelled to turn to violent means as our only end-of-life answer. Frankly, I prefer instead to live life to the fullest, resilient and invigorated by the peace of mind that comes from knowing choices will be mine as I approach certain death.

Last spring I spent nearly a day with Ann Jackson, former executive director of the Oregon Hospice Association, listening to her presentation on Oregon's Death with Dignity Act, reviewing a decade of data, and asking questions. Senators, there is no abuse of disabled or elderly, and there is no assisted suicide, as a result of the Oregon act. Suicide is a choice between life and death, albeit sometimes by those suffering from a mental illness. Death with dignity is a choice between dying peacefully and dying with suffering and unrelenting pain.

Please, I urge you to Vote NO on SB 116.

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