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SB167: Allow aid in dying
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As someone who may face this situation down the road, I have tried to read this bill very carefully to determine what would need to be done prior to, and at the time, the provisions outlined would directly affect me.

If a person with a terminal illness chooses to end their suffering and spare their family the emotional and financial trauma, it should be their right to do so.

A person who is determined to end their life will do so, with or without assistance. This was brought home to me two years ago. It is more humane and less traumatic for everyone involved if it is done with forethought, under medical supervision and in a controlled environment, rather than by hanging, shooting, or poisoning oneself.

How is assisted suicide really any different than wishes contained in a living will or a do not resuscitate (DNR) order where life sustaining treatment can be withheld?

The text seems to cover all bases pretty thoroughly however I don't understand the legalese in Section 13 as to how it would affect my living will that directs my designated agent to withhold extraordinary measures if I am not able to communicate my desires. Is my living will still valid if this bill were to become law?

A couple of portions, Section 19 for example, refer to terminating the patient's life in a public place. The term public place is not defined in the definitions section. Does a public place include a private hospital or long term care facility room?

Is it the intent of this bill that a person may only terminate their life in a private residence?

People routinely put animals out of their misery when they are sick or injured beyond the point of recovery. Why in the world would we not allow the same for our own kind?

I urge the committee to allow a person to choose to die with dignity give this bill a due pass.

Thank you,

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