

February 9, 2011

Montana Senate Judicial Committee

SB 116 - NO

SB 167 - YES

ROBERT C BALHISER
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HELENA, MT

I HAVE BECOME AN EX-REPUBLICAN FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

* WE LIVE IN A MULTI-CULTURAL SOCIETY IN WHICH WE CANNOT LIVE TOGETHER HARMONIOUSLY IF ONE GROUP IS ALLOWED TO IMPOSE IT'S MORALITY ON THOSE WHO BELIEVE OTHERWISE. REPUBLICANS, TODAY, TRY TO DO THIS.

I SUPPORT RIGHT-TO-DIE LEGISLATION FOR ALL OF THE REASONS THAT OTHERS HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT SO PASSIONATELY ELOQUENTLY. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS AN ISSUE THAT HAS BEEN TIP-TOED AROUND. THAT IS COST. NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF ALL HEALTHCARE COSTS ARE INCURRED IN A PERSON'S LAST YEAR OF LIFE, AND OFTEN THESE COSTS ARE PAID BY TAXPAYERS. THERE ARE MENTALLY COMPETENT, TERMINALLY ILL PEOPLE WHO WOULD CHOOSE TO END THEIR SUFFERING SOONER, BUT UNFORTUNATELY

SOME SEEK TO DENY THEM THAT RIGHT WITH SB 116.

* I LIMITED MY VERBAL TESTIMONY TO THIS ONE POINT BECAUSE OF TIME CONSTRAINTS.

(OVER)

REPUBLICANS SAY THAT WE ARE OVER-TAXED, YET
WILLING TO FORCE A MENTALLY COMPETENT, TERMINALLY ILL
PERSON TO REMAIN ALIVE AGAINST THEIR WILL, OFTEN AT
GREAT EXPENSE TO TAXPAYERS. THIS IS NOT THE REPUBLICAN
PARTY THAT I USED TO SUPPORT, NOR IS IT THE
REPUBLICAN PARTY OF MY FATHER.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. Ball", written in a cursive style.