

2-20-2013

Dear Vice Chair Bennett and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Bradley Williams. I am 64 years old and I do not want a doctor or nurse steering me or my wife to kill ourselves. We have the right to be left alone. We have been tax payers in Montana for over 20 years and we expect our government to protect and to value our lives.

I am also the President of Montanans Against Assisted Suicide, A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation.

We organized a public education campaign that included 57 days manning fair booths across the state.

I served 50 of those days interviewing thousands of Montanans one at a time. When people approached our table expressing disagreement with our position, I would lean back and ask, "Why is that?" They would tell me their story. Then I would ask, "Do you know how the laws work?"

A careful read of the laws to legalize assisted suicide reveal flaws and gaps that expose the laws to be a recipe for elder abuse. Starting with, the doctor is not present at the-ingestion-of-the-lethal-dose and indeed there is no witness required. Then someone else can speak for you. Family notification is not required. Heirs are allowed in the application process. The heir can pick up the prescription at the pharmacy and bring it into the house. The heir can administer the lethal dose without the consent of the patient. There is more but with this short list, the overwhelming response from those that thought they were for it would say, "I'm not for that".

Through our public education campaign we received 4,713 signatures on our petition against legalizing assisted suicide, some folks signed it twice saying they were giving you their second notice. The petition is to you the Legislature and the Governor. And here is your copy for the record. Our hope is that this petition combined with your knowledge that once Montanans learn about how these bills are written, what they say and what they don't, "Montanans are not for legalization."

Vote Do Pass on HB505 to establish bright lines to protect our elders from predatory practices all the while continuing to keep the government out, as it has been since 1895. Bradley Williams 406 531 0937