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Honorable Senate Judiciary Committee: Greetings :

Thank you for taking consideration of my comments on HB 505 AGAINST ASSISTED SUICIDE in support of this Bill. Hopefully, I am able to be here in person ,as you will see that I have a very personal stake in this legislation. Both my husband and I are 65 plus years old. "Aid in Dying" sounds like a very CARING concept. I saw an ad in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle asking for support of SB220 which was defeated in the Senate Judiciary Committee recently. This would have made a Montana court decision ,that is being falsley claimed to make Assisted Suicide in Montana legal ,and only needing to be codified by the legislature. When I looked into this group and their researchers I found that their organization is from Colorado and their research is done by a group from California. Even so... Man alive that sounds Caring and even protective of "YOUR RIGHTS". But is it??? Rhetoric is often very deceptive!! What would the end result of this Aid in Dying entail. The opportunity for MISUSE of the legal protection for those who would actively seek the death of a person is immense. The language does not address the person who may no longer be in control of His/Her Healthcare. Decisions could be made due to funding availability or even convenience by a person who has HEALTHCARE POWER OF ATTORNEY for another. This is the ultimate of ELDER or DISABLED PERSON ABUSE that can be imagined. I can testify to that from a personal side as my father (a WWII Omaha Beach Vet, born in Ekalaka, Mt) became terminal with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease in the state of Oregon. A sister-in-law attained control (through my brother ,who had Power of Attorney) of his decisions, and before the family knew it, Dad had the "prescription". When I found out ,I asked him and he told me, "I just do not want you kids to suffer." I was able from my experience as a Nurse to answer his questions regarding "What will happen to me next" and he NEVER had the "prescription" filled. BUT THE REST OF THE STORY IS THAT SHE COULD HAVE HAD IT FILLED. I was able to be at his bedside ,care for him, and keep him comfortable until he naturally ceased to breathe and have a heartbeat. I am still amazed at the anger that was unleashed at me by that sister-in-law...until I found that there was only enough money left from my father's coffers to bury him and pay his final expenses. Their decision to get the "PRESCRIPTION" was not put before the rest of the family who would have stepped up to help fund Dad's care.

Furthermore, Dad did not really want to commit suicide-he merely wanted to protect us from what he envisioned as an unpleasant experience for us. You see he was only concerned with his children. I repeat HE DID NOT WANT TO COMMIT SUICIDE. HE was influenced by a daughter-in-law .

I respectfully ask each of you Committee Members to read the explanation of the word SUICIDE. Check it out on Wikipedia. "SUICIDE" QUOTE To Kill Oneself-act of intentionally causing one's own death. Suicide is often committed out of despair, the cause of which can be contributed to mental disorder such as depression(which can be treated), schizophrenia, alcoholism, or drug abuse. Stress factors ,such as financial difficulties, troubles with interpersonal relationships often play a role. UNQUOTE. Montana already has the SAD distinction of being a state with HIGH SUICIDE RATES. Please take the time to look up the Billings Gazette articles of November 25,2012. It reveals that Veterans, American Indians, Seniors and Teenagers are very high in those statistics. I ASK that each of you Committee Members look beyond the Rhetoric and PARTY LINES and VOTE YEA for the passage of HB 505. DO NOT MAKE MONTANA THE 3rd STATE IN THE UNION TO BE A SUICIDE STATE. Choices are already being made available with the POLST form (Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment). This is a written form indicating a Patient/Client wishes/Choices that is between Him/Her and the Provider. Montana has already provided CHOICES! I am aware that Legislators votes are influenced by the 3 C's Conscience, Constituents ,and Caucus. This is a BI-PARTISAN ISSUE. When constituents are made aware of the SLIPPERY SLOPE and realize that there is a POLST in Montana they change their pro-suicide stance. Caucus is a problem as the Democratic Party is pro suicide. Please then consider Conscience and PROTECT THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED of MONTANA!

Thank You for your consideration of my testimony!

Berniece C. Stulc
409 Bridgerview Drive
Belgrade, Montana 59714
406-388-6746

HIPAA PERMITS DISCLOSURE OF POLST TO OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AS NECESSARY

Section F

Patient/Resident (Parent of Minor Child) Preferences as a Guide for this POLST Form

I have given significant thought to life-sustaining treatment. I have expressed my preferences to my physician and/or health care provider(s). This document reflects my treatment preferences. The following have further information regarding my preferences.

Advance Directive NO YES

Court-appointed Guardian NO YES

Review and discuss these orders if there is substantial change in my health status, such as:

Advanced progressive illness Close to death Extraordinary suffering
Improved condition Permanent unconsciousness

Signature of Patient/Resident, Parent of minor or Guardian/Healthcare Agent (optional)

Signature of Person preparing form	Preparer Name (please print)	Date form prepared
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Section G

Review of this POLST Form

Date	Reviewer	Location of Review	Outcome of Review
			<input type="checkbox"/> No change <input type="checkbox"/> FORM VOIDED, new form completed <input type="checkbox"/> FORM VOIDED, <i>no</i> new form
			<input type="checkbox"/> No change <input type="checkbox"/> FORM VOIDED, new form completed <input type="checkbox"/> FORM VOIDED, <i>no</i> new form
			<input type="checkbox"/> No change <input type="checkbox"/> FORM VOIDED, new form completed <input type="checkbox"/> FORM VOIDED, <i>no</i> new form
			<input type="checkbox"/> No change <input type="checkbox"/> FORM VOIDED, new form completed <input type="checkbox"/> FORM VOIDED, <i>no</i> new form

COMMENTS: