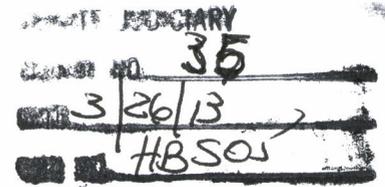


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Senate Judiciary Committee
Hearing on HB 505 ~ Opponent Testimony

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the record my name is Jane Hamman, HAMMAN. I'm here today as a private citizen from Clancy. "Eternal vigilance," Thomas Jefferson concluded "is the price of freedom."

Our Montana constitution has the strongest right to privacy among the 50 states. Surely if I have a terminal illness I should be able to talk with my doctor, my attorney and my pastor about all my end-of-life options and decisions. Surely the government should not or could not legislate away my ability to talk and plan with my physician!

It grieves me deeply to stand here in this historic room among freedom-loving Montanans trying to protect my freedom by opposing HB 505! I am an elder. Neither I nor my elderly friends want this bill which proponents intend to protect us from elder abuse. Indeed, if this bill were to pass, I would name *that action* elder abuse because it would take away my end-of-life peace of mind.

All of us who have comforted parents and others through end-of-life journeys know the major difference between distress and peace of mind.

Please don't take away my freedom. Please table this bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jane Lee Hamman