EXHIBIT 8
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HB 328

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Montana House of Representatives
Montana State Capitol
Helena, Montana
These United States of America

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Dear Montana House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Dr. Robin Lynn Treptow; I live in Great Falls. As holder of a doctorate in clinical psychology and licensed psychologist in Colorado, I support HB 328.

I have one key point: people can be psychologically led to make poor choices for themselves. Simple examples are eating poorly or not exercising. This is why Montana's 1895 legislation—recodified thrice & on the books today as 94-35-215—reads, "every person who deliberately aids, or advises or encourages another to commit suicide is guilty of a felony."

Two psychological principles apply—first, self-fulfilling prophecy—where you think something will occur so make choices that cause it to happen and second, universal learned helplessness—where you see a bad situation as so hopeless that you take no action to stop it.

House Bill 328 sees "self-selected death" to be an unwise choice even when persons are faced with an expectation that they will die sooner rather than later: and even if they (or their doctor) believe nothing can change this outcome.

You need to know is that it is far too easy to undermine a person's 'will to live'. The human psyche is a delicate interweaving of 1) our thoughts; 2) our feelings; and 3) our wills. Harms to these aspects of the self impede wise choices.

HB 328 will restore the moral high ground that killing oneself is not a good thing:

- First, the public retains the thought, "doctors will help me live" instead of "doctors will help me kill myself"; and doctors, keep the thought, "I help people live" instead of, "I help people kill themselves".
- Second, the public keeps the feelings of "wanting to live" instead of "giving up on my life because it is too difficult"; and doctors keep the feelings, "I like helping others live" instead of "I like helping people die".
- Finally, the public keeps a will to "live and to live well" instead of desires to "get a prescription so that I might die"; and doctors keep a will to "help this person live" instead of a will to "help this person die".

To close, any group in society with authority to help you to take your own life is a psychological catastrophe: not only for the weak and vulnerable—but for everyone. As legislators, we the people appeal to you and count on you to protect us from ourselves! Vote for HB 328.

Sincerely,

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