EXHIBIT 30
DATE 2/10/15
HB 328

On New Years Eve 2008, my wife Linda was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. After an 8 month courageous battle she passed away at one a.m. on August 21, 2009.

The end of those 8 months were excruciating for both Linda and our family. To keep a terminally ill patient pain free morphine is prescribed. Morphine has the effect of inhibiting a persons ability to breathe. With palliative care it becomes necessary to increasingly administer more frequent doses, which eventually lead to death. It is the only option left to physicians, yet it is an expensive, needless extension of the pain and suffering of a person who is terminally ill. I watched Linda through those last days and I am not convinced that she was pain free. The bottom line is, morphine's side effect restricts breathing, that is what ultimately kills the patient, not the cancer. So, basically, our society already legalizes "assisted suicide", it is just a drawn out needless process. I have read SB 202 and believe that there are more than sufficient safeguards to prevent any possible abuse of this law.

I respect the beliefs of the opponents of this bill, but that cannot override the unnecessary pain, that patients, family and friends will continue to feel if the legislature does not pass an act that codifies the process. How many lives have felt unnecessary pain since the 2011 Judiciary Committee killed a Death with Dignity Bill, because physicians are unsure of their legal rights? In a time when conservative ideals talk about less government interference in our personal lives, it seems appropriate that conservatives, moderates and progressives come together and allow the decision to be left to the individual. Our Montana Constitutional right to privacy should guarantee us this right, we should have the right to decide our own fate.

I support SB 202 and believe that HB328 is a bad bill that interferes with our individual rights.

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