

Honorable Members of Montana's 64<sup>th</sup> Legislature the Senate  
Judiciary Committee;

My Name is Berniece Stulc. I am a Geriatric Nurse and have been in Healthcare since 1983. I live in Belgrade, Mt and work in Bozeman. I OPPOSE SB202. Please Vote NAY to advancing this Bill to our Senate floor.

While reading Senate bill 202 by Senator Barrett I was struck by the obvious amount of time and effort it took for the draft to formulate. Especially to quiet concerns regarding "ELDER and DISABLED ABUSE" I see there are Lots of Rules. Should Be Air Tight so to speak! The word Coercion does not appear, though it should. In my work as a Nurse I have witnessed this take place especially when one is at their most vulnerable. Economics seem to be the bottom line in these situations. I can believe that Senator Barrett has a very good understanding of Economics as that is his background. My own father, a World War 11 Omaha Beach Vet ,who lived in Oregon almost fell victim to this situation. He was dying of End Stage Lung Disease. I was prevented from attending a Care Conference between my Sister-in-law and the VA Case Manager and Social Worker. When I asked him "Do you really want to do this?" He replied "No. I just do not want you kids to suffer." He was rapidly running out of his money for care. After I answered his questions regarding the dying process, and told him that I would be there for him and care for him he no longer wanted anything to do with Oregon's Option! I was given the GIFT of Caring For him as he hd done for me in infancy to adulthood.

I am attaching to this testimony an article I found on the Internet which I feel is proof of the SLIPPERY SLOPE! Please pay attention to Page two where I have highlighted for you all a LIE! Please Vote NAY and Correct this LIE !

Thank You For Your Service! Berniece Stulc Belgrade,Mt



TOP STORIES

BELGIUM

## Belgium approves assisted suicide for minors

The Belgian parliament has voted to allow children access to assisted suicide. Despite strong opposition from religious organizations and some doctors, the legislation had enjoyed widespread popular support.



**The vote** on Thursday by Belgium's House of Representatives removed all age restrictions on the right of the incurably sick to end their lives, a vote that has caused considerable controversy.

Ahead of the vote, Socialist Senator Philippe Mahoux, the author of Belgium's 2002 "right to die" legislation and himself a doctor, called euthanasia "the ultimate gesture of humanity" and "not a scandal." He added that "the scandal is illness and the death of children from disease."

Mahoux had called for widening his law to include minors because medics had already helped children in pain die as a question of mercy - just illegally. The draft bill had stated that a child must have "a capacity of discernment and be conscious" on requesting to die.

### 'Hopeless medical situation'

According to the law, the child must "be in a hopeless medical situation of constant and unbearable

December after the upper house consulted with dozens of medical specialists, lawyers and interest groups.

In the debate leading up to this final vote in the lower house, the Catholic Church protested and about 160 pediatricians petitioned lawmakers to postpone the vote.

### Assisted suicide elsewhere

Euthanasia laws [have proved controversial in the EU](#). The European Court of Human Rights leaves it up to [individual nations to decide](#).

In the Netherlands, the first country to legalize euthanasia, sick children 12 years and older may decide their own fates, but parents have the final say for kids 16 and younger. The Netherlands has only had five cases of child euthanasia since the law went into effect there in 2002.

Adult euthanasia is allowed Benelux-wide, with Luxembourg having legalized the end-of-life decision in 2009. Switzerland allows assisted suicide, so long as the person dying completes the act him- or herself. France will consider legalizing euthanasia later this year.

The US states of Montana, Oregon, Vermont and Washington allow assisted suicide. In 2006, the Supreme Court rejected an attempt by the US government to abolish Oregon's Death with Dignity Act.

mkg/hc (Reuters, AFP, dpa)

### DW RECOMMENDS

#### Belgian lawmakers vote on euthanasia for kids

Belgium's second house of parliament is set to decide on legalizing active medically assisted suicide for children. The planned expansion of the euthanasia law for adults has been hotly debated for months. (13.02.2014)

#### Europe split on right-to-die regulations

Thus far, the European Union has kept its hands off the law books when it comes to a blanket regulation of right-to-die regulations in member states. DW takes a look at the varying attitudes amongst EU members. (13.02.2014)

#### European court rules on euthanasia debate

The European Court of Human Rights issued a decision Thursday on whether states may refuse to assist in a suicide. Germany's laws on assisted suicide draw a fine line between what's permitted, and what's not. (19.07.2012)

Date 13.02.2014

Keywords [Belgium](#), [euthanasia](#), [Socialist Party](#), [Philippe Mahoux](#), [right to die](#), [Liberal Party](#)

Share [Send](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Google+](#) [More](#)

Feedback: [Send us an e-mail](#). Please include your name and country in your reply.

Print [Print this page](#)

Permalink <http://dw.de/p/1B8Bj>