

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee.

My name is Dan Lourie, from Bozeman.

I speak in opposition to HB 477. I regard it as a heinous bill.

When I am dying, in great pain with no hope of recovery, I should not have to move from my home and loving family in Montana to Oregon seeking a physician's assistance. Prior to that moment, I deserve peace of mind, knowing that my physician will help me without fearing that government, which has no business interfering with my desire for dignity at the time of my death, can imprison her or him for providing aid for my suffering.

Cloaked only in a tunic of immorality, can elected representatives of the citizens of Montana - not physicians, not nurses, not hospice-trained specialists - take upon themselves these medical decisions for those suffering from incurable illness?

What perverse definition of "governing" bestows upon an attorney from Seattle the right to second guess treatments physicians have chosen to provide?

What fantasy ascribes to an attorney from Seattle the power to interpret my physician's intent, to second guess my doctor's decisions, to order the imprisonment of physicians whose judgement may not align with one's personal prejudices?

It is a moral imperative that government not limit the liberty of competent, terminally ill adults to decide the circumstances of our deaths. Violating our deserved privacy and autonomy at this most personal time is an offense to human dignity.

Please renounce obstruction of sacred relationships between patient and physician. You have an opportunity to uphold the precepts of liberty, privacy and dignity espoused by the Montana Constitution. Please vote against HB 477.

Thank you.

SENATE JUDICIARY

Exhibit No. 20

Date: 3/26/15

Bill No. HB 477