

SENATE JUDICIARY

Exhibit No. 25
Date: 3/26/15
Bill No. HB 477

I rise in opposition to HB 477.

I am a Social Worker [now retired] by choice & training. I have worked in the fields of Death & Dying in many different populations, & in Suicide Recovery & Prevention. I have worked for state agencies in Alaska & Montana & also for IHS.

The use of the broad definition of "suicide" in the language of this bill is both inflammatory & deceptive. I would venture a guess that few if any Legislators are Physicians or hold positions bound by the Hippocratic Oath. HB477 attempts to make law about an issue that is at the very core of Personal Freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

HB 477 attempts to make law and insert the government into decisions that are or will be made by each person in this room, because "each" us will die, and few get to just "go to sleep".

I have Parkinsons Disease, perhaps someone in this room does also, or has a loved who does. The decisions I will make in the coming years will be between my Physicians, those who love me and my higher power. They will most likely not be the same choices anyone else will make. No government body or law should interfere with my decisions or anyone else's decisions.

I may choose the time and method that will end my suffering. I will not be committing "suicide" which is an act done out of hopelessness, loneliness, fear, and desperation.

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