

February 24, 2016

I am writing in support of the 'right to try' bill, House bill 215, Senate bill 113, introduced by Scott Kawasaki and Bill Wielechowski.

My father was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2004. Multiple myeloma is an incurable disease, the average life expectancy is four years. My dad joined an experimental drug trial in the state of Wisconsin, in 2007, knowing that the study he was participating in might not help him much, but would absolutely help others in the future. The experimental drug and treatment he helped to test shows promise, and although my father has since died of his illness, the experimental drug treatment gave him several more happy years, doing the things he liked best, and the happy knowledge that he had helped all MM sufferers in the future.

I support science-based medicine, and i think for terminally ill patients who would like to continue to contribute to future generations, allowing them to participate in the testing and use of experimental drugs is a good idea.

One of my best friends currently suffers from M.S. Because the experimental drug trial he is participating in is not available in the US, he moved to the Czech Republic to take part in a Swiss trial. The treatment has helped him tremendously, he is even able to play racquet ball now: before the trial, he was often wheelchair bound. The trial

has had such good results, that a new treatment has been invented based on the same technique, and is now slowly becoming available to other sufferers of M.S.

I applaud his courage and the courage of all those who suffer terminal illnesses, and who are willing to take part in experiments that can help future generations to live longer, fuller lives. Please consider the merits of these drug trials, and pass this bill.

Charlotte Whiteley
Homer, AK