

I am terminally ill, and writing in support of HB99. This is difficult, but I think necessary.

After gathering research and articles regarding "Death With Dignity", I've come to the conclusion that the opposition consists mainly of radical religious fanatics. I believe in God, always have. I live by the 10 Commandments. But, after suffering for 20 years with excruciating pain, I believe I have the right to die my way, in peace, with compassion. Since I am already dying, it isn't murder in my eyes. Only those who are experiencing near death, and the pain involved, can say without reservation that they would rather pass away peacefully before inhumane pain and lack of dignity takes over their body. I live every day in fear of those days I have to look forward to.

I would love for someone to do for me what I have done for my pets when it was their time. I helped them to pass painlessly and peacefully, with lots of love. I don't understand those who don't have compassion for the dying, whether it be a human or an animal. Do they enjoy watching the suffering? Or, do they just stay away from the dying during those days/months so they don't have to watch? I think you would have to be a cold, cold person to not feel for that person who is in pain and dying.

Death with Dignity should be a "choice"! I am not for "forcing" another to choose it. But, it should be a person's "right" to have that choice. It is not intended for suicide, murder, or depression. There's a big difference. I would like to see it in a person's Will and "Advanced Health Directive" so there would be no doubt as to the individual's decisions for their death. I would have it in my Will if I could.

Please consider my letter. This is for a person's right of choice, it is not a mandate that everyone has to "Die with Dignity". If you want to die miserably and in pain, leaving thousands of dollars in medical bills, among other bills, be my guest, but I should also have the choice to "Die with Dignity".

Patricia Pattee

Kristin Kranendonk

From: Anne Kilkenny <annekilkenny@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 7:12 PM
To: Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Max Gruenberg
Subject: HB 99

Representatives Drummond, Josephson & Gruenberg,

re: HB 99

Thank you for having the courage to begin the discussion of this very difficult topic!

A couple of weeks ago I spent 2 days with a friend at the bedside of her dying 98 yr old semi-comatose mom. Ten days after "Mom" stopped talking, eating or drinking, she died a peaceful death, her body so emaciated that her head was a skull with skin stretched over it.

This was not the first time I've spent days at the bedside of a dying person. Each experience has opened for me a Pandora's box of questions, most of which I have found no answers to, even though I am a life-long, practicing Catholic.

A couple of things, however, ARE clear to me:

- 1) people should have the maximum control over their lives,
- 2) death is a natural part of life, and
- 3) it should not be illegal for anyone to assist another person in their effort to exercise control over their life.

Thank you for your courage and service,

Anne Kilkenny
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Live Simply. Love Generously. Care Deeply. Speak Kindly. Leave the rest to God.

Kristin Kranendonk

From: Walter Benesch <wbenesch@alaska.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 11:53 AM
To: Kristin Kranendonk
Subject: HB 99 support

Kristin Kranendonk, I would like to add my support for HB99. It is time that we come to terms with the "right to die with dignity" and get the vested theological interests out of this decisions making process. Walter Benesch, Prof of Philosophy Emeritus UAF.

Kristin Kranendonk

From: dixalaska@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 1:54 PM
To: Rep. Harriet Drummond
Subject: HB 99 - a note from dixie hood -

I am 81 years old and a member of the Juneau Commission on Aging. With the increasing population of Seniors in Juneau and all of Alaska, there are many issues and important needs facing us. This is a letter in support of HB 99 Death with Dignity. This Legislation empowers Elders and others suffering with life-threatening medical conditions to access Physician prescribed medication and would facilitate thoughtful end-of-life choice.

As a Senior myself and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, I have seen friends and clients move to Oregon to access this opportunity for a peaceful passing.

Going through all the preparation and expense of moving to another state complicates lives of patients and their caretakers in extremely negative ways. Most of these folks want to stay in Alaska within their familiar communities. Passage of HB 99 would enable this. There is no apparent fiscal note required, please take positive action to pass this Legislation as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Dixie A. Hood
9350 View Drive
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(907) 789-2068 (H)
(907) 586-2200 (24 hr mess.#)

Kristin Kranendonk

From: Mary Ann Borchert <maborche@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 2:10 AM
To: Kristin Kranendonk
Subject: Re: HB99

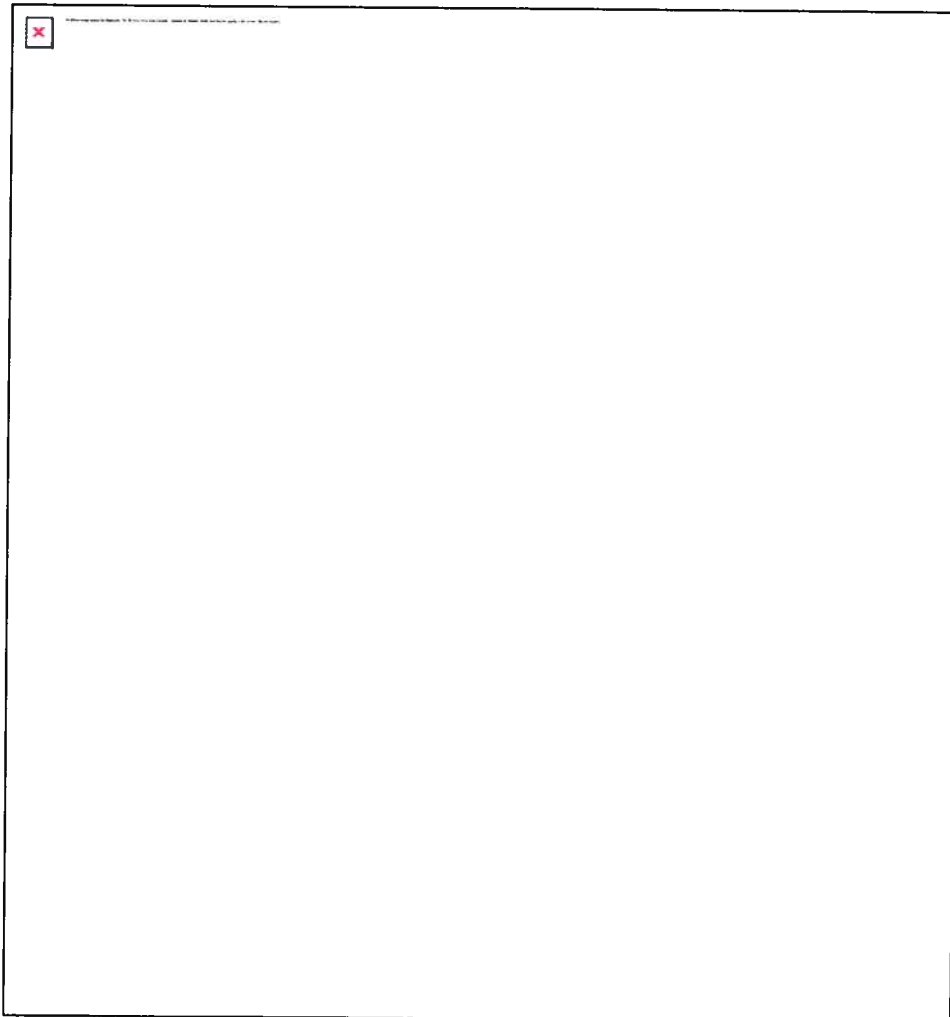
I am in favor of HB 99. Please convey this support to HSS committee members. I don't think my previous message came through correctly.

Thank you.

Mary Ann Borchert

Sent from my iPhone
Mary Ann Borchert
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On Apr 7, 2015, at 9:58 AM, Mary Ann Borchert <maborche@gmail.com> wrote:



Kristin Kranendonk

From: Robert Churchill <rock4@gci.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 05, 2015 10:50 AM
To: Kristin Kranendonk
Subject: HB99

Unfortunately I'll be out of town on the date for public testimony. However I fully support the passage of this bill. I have had two very close friends who have been terminal with cancer that I've spend a significant amount of time with in the last 6 months of their lives. Based on my conversations with them, I know they would have appreciated having this as an option.

Given the criterion I don't believe this either encourages or leads to "suicide" in the context we most often think of it.

I hope this passes and gives Alaskans another option when it comes to end of life decisions.

Bob Churchill