

Subject: Support for HB 99 voluntary termination of life by terminally ill individuals

Representative Drummond,

I would like to extend my appreciation for your support of HB 99.

My father, age 90, has been an Alaska resident since 1948 (67 years). He was until December 2014, very independent – living in his own home, driving, shopping, out visiting with friends, going to family functions, fishing, fixing his own meals and taking care of all his own needs. In December he was diagnosed with a terminal illness and is now confined to a wheel chair, unable to support his own weight and requires a 24 hour caregiver. The changes basically seemed to happen overnight. As a family we are able to provide for his physical needs. But this is not the quality of life that he had experience all his life.

Both my parents have had health care directives for many years. Their choice for health care is allowed by law.

After reading a recent Alaska Dispatch article on HB 99, my father has several times expressed that he wished the law was available now. He has mentioned it to several family members.

I took the time to go online to Oregon's website <http://www.deathwithdignity.org/in-oregon> . I wanted to understand and make certain that the ability to choose was only the patients. Which it is. In Oregon the patient must be able to administer the pill themselves.

As a family, I don't think that we are ever ready to experience our parent's passing. But who are we to decide that our parents have to remain alive for our emotional wellbeing.

I now watch a man, whom I love, unable to continue to live life as he had experienced in the past. I see a man that knows how he must spend the rest of his life because he currently has no ability to choose.

I would support my father's choice for death with dignity.

Would it be difficult? Of course it would. But harder still is to know he is going to die; watch the changes in his body as he wastes away; seeing how very tired he is.

What makes it bearable? Knowing that the choice was his; that this was both the quantity & most importantly the quality of life that he chose.

I know that I may have rambled on, but this bill is important to Alaskans. I was aware that other states have had the ability to choose death with dignity, but never thought I would one day wish that I was a resident of one of those states.

Please feel free to share this e-mail.

Respectfully,

My Father's Daughter

Cynthia Kimbley