

Support for HB 99 – 04.13.2015

*Includes emails from:*

*Gary Newman – Fairbanks*

*Bernie and Donna Gareau – Homer*

*Joyanne Bloom - Juneau*

**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Gary Newman

**Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2015 2:57 PM

**To:** Rep. Paul Seaton

**Cc:** Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. David Talerico

**Subject:** HB 99

Rep. Seaton,

Thank you for hearing HB 99 yesterday. I listened to a good deal of the committee hearing at the LIO in Fairbanks and was struck by the many heartfelt stories. I didn't hear any opposition that would not have been addressed by HB 99. I do have a few of my own family stories, but won't share them here.

It seems an inconsistent phenomenon to me that Alaskans, who pride themselves on their personal independence and not wanting more governmental interference than absolutely necessary, would not want to allow their fellow Alaskans to have the freedom to make the most existential decision of their lives with dignity.

I will say that HB 99 is far more stringent in its application than I would advocate. For example, people with incurable and excruciating pain that isn't life threatening within 6 months of expected death are not eligible. That being said, HB 99 would still be a good beginning.

While end of life shouldn't be a purely economic decision, I also recognize and have known individuals who want to avoid having their family's finances depleted from extraordinary means of preserving their lives at any cost.

You are welcome to share this with other members of the committee and I hope for continued progress.

Sincerely,

Gary Newman  
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: Bernie Gareau [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2015 12:20 PM  
To: Rep. Paul Seaton  
Subject: Right to Die

We support your position on this pending legislation. Our personal experience with parents and grandparents who were fervent Catholics and who faced terminal conditions after fighting lengthy illnesses were assisted by courageous healthcare professionals to a dignified and peaceful death. We should all be so blessed to live long and productive lives and then pass peacefully and with dignity. Thank you again for your efforts on behalf of this type of initiative.

Bernie & Donna Gareau  
PO Box 3526  
Homer, AK 99603

**From:** Joyanne Bloom [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2015 11:38 AM  
**To:** Rep. Paul Seaton  
**Cc:** Rep. Harriet Drummond  
**Subject:** HB99

Representative Seaton, I'm so grateful that you brought HB99 before your HSS Committee Thursday, 4/9/15. I was there on to testify but had to leave after an hour and three quarters without having my turn. Here's is what I would have said:

I'm representing myself. I've lived here for over 40 years. I've raised my children here. I'm now blessed with five grandchildren all here in Alaska. There's no getting me to leave the state - with one exception.

When my time comes, I will have to leave my family and leave Alaska so I can have the death I want, a death with dignity. Leaving home at that time terrifies me! With the passage of HB99, I can stay home in Alaska with my family and have the death I choose.

As far as hearing from the doctors that testified against the bill, there is a simple answer. The legislation doesn't make them do anything they don't want to do. The objections are noted and met.

Please share this with other members of the Committee.

Thank you again so much for honoring your mother, father and aunt with this bill,

Joyanne Bloom

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