

Representative Paul Seaton
270 W Pioneer, #B
Homer, AK 99603

RE: HB 99

Dear Rep Seaton:

I am writing in support of HB 99 by Rep. Drummond. I believe it is referred to by many as the "the right to die bill" although I personally consider it the "death with dignity" bill.

My fervent belief is that every person has a right to die with dignity when suffering a terminal illness and as painlessly as his/her medical provider and family can arrange. This conviction is the result of my experiences with the end of life.

As a hospice volunteer I have watched people progress towards their death. No doubt, many would not want to end their lives sooner. All are given significant doses of pain relieving medication, some to the degree that they are not aware of the family or friends that may be at their bedside. Others may welcome the choice of when and how the end of their life would take place. The choice to be conscious of their surrounding and the ability to say goodbye.

My Father died a painful cancer death in 1965 two days before his 52nd birthday and on my 22nd birthday. Of course, he was deeply medicated that last night that I sat in his hospital room therefore oblivious to my presence. Perhaps he would have chosen a different end, I don't know but the operative word is "choice".

We have many protections for our right to choose how to live our lives, to be free to make choices yet such freedoms are denied when dying. As has been pointed out by many, our pets and other animals are allowed more privilege than us. Four months ago I was able to ask the kind veterinarian to put my 16 year old cat down when his kidneys gave out rather than try to keep him alive for an unknown but likely short period of time. I wish for, ask for the same option - to be "put down" at my request when my body is giving out.

Please bring this bill up for a hearing so all views can be discussed.

You may wish to review this site: deathwithdignity.org

Thank you,

Monte

Ms Monte L. Jordan
P.O. Box 73941
Fairbanks, AK 99707

cc: Representatives Harriet Drummond