

TESTIMONY AGAINST HB403– END OF LIFE OPTION ACT

**February 8, 2024
HGO & JUD Committees**

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Dear Committee Members,

I am reaching out to you, as leaders, to not accept the culture of killing that we have allowed to permeate society. Yet we wonder why killers don't value life. **Life is not a partisan issue but the whole issue.** It should be cherished from conception to death.

Humans by nature want to be in control. But we are only human and make a mess of things as we do not hold the wisdom necessary to make judgements on who should live and who should die. But God created life, and our value and purpose come from God. **Maybe it is more necessary to live.**

Our middle-age and young people have grown up with easy access to and use of abortion which casually kills a beating heartbeat and growing human. Now this bill encourages killing by allowing someone to take their own life when they may be in a vulnerable position.

Kill pain not the person. Death is too final to allow it so much latitude.

We know that Hospice and Palliative Care are wonderful options to provide medicines, comfort and support for the patient and the family. We know that other countries and states that have allowed assisted suicide show that pain is not the main reason, more the loss of enjoying activities and autonomy. We know that assisted suicide inevitably expands where it has been decriminalized to include chronic conditions, psychological distress and disabilities. Where is the dignity in that?

We are not asked to be born, and we should not have to ask to die. Let us care for each other whatever our circle of life encompasses. **Dignity depends on one's character, not circumstances.** Life with grace delivers more blessings than an untimely death. **Let's focus on the worth of treatment and not the worth of a person.** Unnatural death is not our friend.

Just as it takes courage to live out your life with dignity and grace, I ask for your courage to protect life. Thank you for your consideration, and I urge an UNF on SB443.

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