

HB403 End-of-Life Option Act

Favorable

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My wife, Carolyn, died about one year ago. She was 86. We had been married for 60 years. The spirit had left her; she had pain from lumbar stenosis; she wanted to die before me. And she did so by not taking any food or drink. Hospice Care in the last week of her life meant we had morphine available which we gave her when she was restless. The morphine put her to sleep. Her last days were silent. My granddaughter whispered the names of those who loved her as she took her final breath. I held her hand and told her "I love you."

Could our last time with Carolyn have been different if this law had been in place? Carolyn could have been awake and present to us under this law. We could have had the immediate family there to spend those last minutes with her. We would sing our family goodbye hymn, "Bless Be the Tie that Binds." We would read some scripture or tell a favorite story chosen by each one there. We could play one of the songs Carolyn used to sing—maybe "For God So Loved the World". She had one request for her memorial service, "Pomp and Circumstance". We might have listened to that music as she was about to graduate into the next phase of her life. Would Carolyn have wanted all this? Who knows for sure. I think she would have wanted that. Our son disagrees. But it was not an option we had.

The comforting scene I just laid out might have played out with the intrusion of unanticipated problems. But haven't we learned to deal with problems as a normal part of our life here on earth?

A favorable vote on this legislation would give me that option.