

Joseph Hamilton

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Honorable Senators,

In the Bible, in the book of Genesis, we are told people are special. We are not just another animal. What makes us unique is our ability to love and be loved. We can also use our unique gift of free will for good or bad.

When our emotions work against us and make us sad or depressed or hopeless, our community should not add to our misery. Rather, we need to encourage and comfort those who are hurting and vulnerable. It does take more effort to care for someone than to just leave them.

I know of a young girl who lived in Ma., who could not move; even her head. Nevertheless, she became so popular that my friend had to take over setting up meeting times for her so as to help control the many people coming to her for help. These people wanted to talk to Audrey because she had the gift of miracles. She would intercede for your intentions and God would answer in profound ways! Though totally immobile, God used her to help many, many people.

Our dignity does not come from other people's attitude or opinion about us. Our life is a gift from God. God knows us and wants us from the moment of our conception and throughout eternity. Our body is made for community. It is the community's responsibility to support and encourage our body, mind, and spirit.

Assisted suicide is the EXACT OPPOSITE of what we are called to do as a civilized society! Let us seek ways to comfort and ease pain and

encourage rather than spend money on our selfishness. “Death with dignity” is an oxymoron! Death is not dignified. Life is! We must seek ways to promote and honor life as we encourage others; no matter their circumstance. From the moment we are conceived, we require nurturing support. We must change our attitude promoting what has been called a “culture of death” and seek ways to promote a “culture of life” in which all people are held in higher esteem.

It costs more money to nurture life than to just “pull the plug.” But, in the broader economic scope of life, there’s more money to be gained through promoting life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We must not focus on selfish immediate gain. Instead, let’s initiate new and better ways to comfort and ease the pain of those in need.