

## SB443 End-of-Life Option Act

FAVorable

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My wife, Carolyn, died a year ago. She was 86. We were 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. That was her terminal illness. Hospice Care in the last week of her life meant we had morphine available which put her to sleep. Her last days in our own home were days of silence. As she took her final breath, my granddaughter, on one side of the bed, whispered the names of those who loved her. I, on the other side, held her hand and whispered, "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, not silent. We would sing our family goodbye hymn, "Bless Be the Tie that Binds." We would read some scripture selected by each one or tell a favorite story. We could play one of the songs Carolyn used to sing—maybe "For God So Loved the World". We would have moments of silence and prayer. We might listen to "Pomp and Circumstance," her one request for her memorial service. Would Carolyn have chosen this? Who knows? I think she would have. Our son disagrees. But it was not an option Carolyn had.

The comforting scene I just laid out might have been interrupted by some trouble. But haven't we learned to deal with trouble as a normal part of our life here on earth?

A favorable vote on this legislation would give folks another option for end of life.