

Testimony in Support of SB 2226

Residential End-of-Life Facilities

House Human Services Committee

March 9, 2021 • 2:45 p.m. • Pioneer Room

SuAnn Olson

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services committee, I urge you to support and pass SB 2226, which will authorize a new option for North Dakota families facing end of life dilemmas. Currently, there are limited homey options for those who may be receiving hospice care or who would qualify for hospice care except that for various reasons their own home isn't suitable or accessible or they lack family caregivers who can assist with the daily care needs of their loved ones. My own father is someone who could have benefited from such a facility. All the bedrooms in his farm home were on the second floor. When he became quite infirm just before he died, the only solution for him was a hospital bed in the living room because he couldn't make it up the stairs. The small home made it difficult for his children to come from some distance to help. How wonderful it would have been to have a facility where he could have gone that lifted the burden off his wife and made it easier for his children to visit and say their goodbyes.

Many individuals in this situation are the elderly and often their needs are beyond what their elderly household member can supply. Creating a new statute that allows for a separate facility that can provide a peaceful home-like experience to those facing the end of their life is a concept that is much needed in our state.

I respectfully request that you support and pass SB 2226.

Thank you.