

Testimony in Support of SB 2226

Residential End-of-Life Facilities

House Human Services Committee

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

Laura Kelley

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2226 to allow residential end-of-life facilities in North Dakota. Serving in the banking field for more than 20 years, I have worked with numerous elderly clients and their loved ones. I have seen them struggle with countless aspects of end-of-life care. These challenges put a strain not only on the dying, but also on their loved ones. I firmly believe that giving North Dakotans an alternate solution to guiding their loved ones, both the elderly and the terminally ill, into death is the right decision for our state. If SB 2226 is passed, Gaia Home could be part of the solution.

Gaia Home will be a complement to hospice care. It will be staffed with qualified, hands-on professionals available 24/7 in a home environment for those who are unable or desire not to be cared for in their own home. The 12 private twin homes, all connected to the main building that houses the staffing area, will allow for patients to feel as if they are in a 'home away from home' in their final days.

In addition, Gaia Home will allow relief on the patient's loved ones who are feeling the insurmountable pain and stress of trying to support and respect their loved one's dying wishes and needs. This facility will give the opportunity for loved ones to come and go as they need and grant them time with the patient to focus on creating final lasting memories.

Passing this bill will allow for an additional option to those in need of end-of-life care. As someone who has interacted with countless individuals who would have and could still benefit from this type of facility – and with full knowledge that many of you reading this have those individuals in your life as well – I implore you to loudly support this bill and Gaia Home.