

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C.

P.O. Box 75265, Washington, DC 20013

www.glaa.org

GLAA urges Health Committee members to support Death with Dignity Act

From: Richard Rosendall <rrosendall@starpower.net>

Date: Monday, September 19, 2016 at 7:21 AM

To: David Grosso <dgrosso@dccouncil.us>

Subject: Please support Bill 21-0038, Death with Dignity Act of 2015

Dear Councilmember Grosso:

GLAA urges you to vote for Bill 21-0038, the Death with Dignity Act of 2015, when it is brought up for a vote in the Committee on Health and Human Services, which is expected in early October. Your support is crucial to a successful markup of the bill.

The Death with Dignity Act is modeled on an Oregon law. As described by The Washington Post, it "would allow patients with illnesses likely to result in death within six months to seek medication to end their lives. Two physicians would have to consent to dispensing the life-ending drugs after certifying the patient's terminal prognosis and mental competency."

The gay community's painful experience with AIDS gives us sensitivity to end-of-life issues. Contrary to opponents such as Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl, this carefully crafted measure is not based on a "eugenic philosophy" but on compassion and respect.

Here is a link to GLAA's testimony from July 2015:

<http://www.glaa.org/archive/2015/glaaondeathwithdignityact0710.pdf>

Rev. Cedric Harmon's testimony for the bill:

<http://www.glaa.org/archive/2015/harmonondeathwithdignityact0710.pdf>

Discussion on Bill 21-0038 in GLAA's 2016 policy brief:

http://glaa.org/archive/2016/buildingonvictory2016.htm#_Toc41

Thank you for your consideration.

Rick Rosendall

President

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance