

Toni Kaeding Testimony – H.190
Senate Health & Welfare
April 4, 2023

Intro

- Thanks, name, address
- Background: Nurse – oncology, grad school – health policy
- Volunteer for 5+ years at PCV – org dedicated to education about MAiD
- Helpline - (pts/families – how Act 39 works/options , clinicians – protocol/resources)
- Back-up resources..... consulting docs, pharm, nurses, SWs, lawyers.
- Also, co-chair PCV Board

Patient Choices Vermont

- I should mention here that PCV is a not-for-profit and an almost entirely volunteer organization. Serves as the primary and most complete source of information about Act 39 in VT and was the organization that helped usher Act 39 into being in 2013.
- Focus since then has been education and access.

Main Message

- Please support S.26. (Story about initial reaction to Act 39 residence requirement.)
- It is not fair to allow a state border to restrict care to patients seeking medical help . And it's not fair to deny out of state patients access to the compassion and peace that Act 39 can provide.
- The voices of people who call PCV are full of anguish and desperation and fear.
Removal of the residency restriction in Act 39 is a matter of equity, utility and kindness.

Practicalities

- As a practical matter, role PCV can play in facilitation of S.26 is education...provide information about the change and what it would mean to clinicians - via both helpline and website.
- In ALL of our communication to both patients and clinicians, we will be very clear that **ALL steps in the Act 39 process must occur in Vermont** – both to comply with medical licensure and to protect the patient's family from any legal risks in their home state.

Closing

You may have heard people say about Act 39....."even if I never use it, it just gives me so much peace knowing it's there." As a nurse and on behalf of patients, thanks for your support of Act 39 and thanks for your willingness to consider leadership in a national trend to remove residency restrictions from health care.