Testimony: S 2051

SUPPORT for the Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act

May 7th, 2026

Dear Chair LaMountain and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee ,

My name is Eliza Sirpenski and I am the Administrative Policy Lead at The Womxn Project, a Rhode Island-based nonprofit that focuses on bodily freedom, LGBTQ+ rights, and government transparency.

I am writing on behalf of the organization to express support for S2051, the Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act. The purpose of this bill is to allow qualified terminally ill patients to be prescribed life-ending medication at their own request. Patients would then have to administer the medication themselves if they want to take it. The goal is to allow terminally ill patients to "die with dignity" rather than forcing them to suffer in pain and discomfort as their illness progresses.

S2051 is about compassion and autonomy. Patients deserve to have autonomy over their own bodies and should be able to make decisions over the type of healthcare they receive if they are mentally able to. They also deserve to be treated with the utmost dignity, care, and compassion, and sometimes this means allowing them to end their lives if this means ending their suffering. Although many look at this type of healthcare as taboo, Rhode Island would not be the first state where laws such as this one exist. California, Colorado, Washington D.C., Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington all have Death with Dignity Laws, proving that this is the type of legislation many Americans, especially those who are terminally ill, want to see passed.

It is time for Rhode Island to get on board and give terminally ill patients the compassion and autonomy they deserve. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Eliza Sirpenski
Administrative Policy Lead, The Womxn Project