

A House committee failed to take action on a bill today (Tues) that allows for physician assisted suicide for terminally ill patients. KUAR's Sarah Kellogg has more on the bill

Assisted Suicide Bill Fails Wrap : SOC

The bill would have allowed patients who have a disease verified by the appropriate physician as life-ending, the option to seek medication that would kill them. Rep. Dan Douglas, R-Bentonville, presented the bill to the committee. He says this bill would just give another option of care for patients who are suffering.

Assisted Suicide Bill Fails Cut 1 :24 "...their decision"
"For a terminally ill patient, who is scared of the pain and suffering that they might go through. They want the option available to give them comfort. If it gets too bad, I have the option to end the suffering for myself and for my family and it's totally, with this bill, it's totally their decision."

Many lawmakers had questions concerning the bill, including Rep. Fredrick Love, who said this about the bill before asking one of his questions.

Assisted Suicide Bill Fails Cut 2 :06 "...I'll say that"
"I'll tell you Rep. Douglas, you've brought us a tough one. I'll say that."

Love asked the difference between the type of physician assisted suicide outlined in the bill and a "do not resuscitate" order. According to Karen Smith, a registered nurse who spoke on behalf of the bill, an assisted suicide action would be before something happened to a patient, as opposed to a "do not resuscitate," which would occur after.

Another question concerned what defines as a "relatively short time" which is the amount listed in the bill that would qualify a patient to request physician assisted suicide. Douglas said he was open to amending the bill to have that time period defined as six months or fewer.

Ultimately, the committee chose not to make a motion on the bill.

Sarah Kellogg, KUAR News.