

Dear Legislators,

I live in Marion County and am a 6th generation resident of our great state. I am asking for your support in defeating HB 4135 concerning withholding food and water for persons who are unable to feed themselves.

I am in opposition to HB 4135 concerning withholding food and water to persons who are felt to be in the latter stages of life. As a Registered Nurse I have witnessed people who were thought to be incapable of recovery from catastrophic strokes or injuries return to a positive and rewarding state.

I have personal experience with a young man who was training for Olympic completion and had an accident, breaking his neck in a fall during practice. The medical experts told his parents that there was no chance that he would come out of a vegetative state and suggested that they 'let nature take it's course.' They refused and after some weeks he regained consciousness and went on to complete his education and became a college professor. He was my mentor for many years.

I have a family member who is the later stages of dementia. He is still capable of bringing humor and love to our family, he resides with his wife and she feeds him and takes care of him with a loving heart.

Please vote no on HB 4135

Thank you,
Ruth Newton
1121 NE Rosewood St.
Sublimity
97385