

Good Morning/Afternoon Chairman Lipps, Vice Chairman Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the House Health committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 324.

My name is Terri Rapp Laeng. "Wilma" from Shirley & Wilma Act H.B. No. 324 is my mother.

Wilma was more than my mother; she was my best friend, confidant, and the godliest woman I've known. "Shirley" from Shirley & Wilma Act H.B. No. 324 was my mother's best friend and she also was a very special and very godly lady. Her husband was a pastor and led my father to the lord; what a beautiful day that was for us all.

We were Family. I even called her Momma Number 2. They took vacations together, and Shirley came to our Family Christmas and Easter Dinners. I can't express enough how special these beautiful ladies were to me and to so many other people in our lives.

I am very honored to support H.B. No. 324. The issues addressed by H.B. 324 have wreaked such havoc on so many people's lives; especially my mother, Wilma, and Shirley and the millions of other families.

I want to express I was truly "broken" when I was told I couldn't be with my mother, and that Pastor Click also couldn't even be there for her. Especially when she was dying. I asked the doctors everyday if I could "please" come be with her, to hold her hand, brush her hair (she loved that when she was feeling well) and sing to her some of her favorite gospel hymns.

When my mother was dying the hospital finally called me to say I could come be with her, but in a matter of minutes the phone rang, and she had already passed. They waited too long. I was so mad, upset, absolutely "truly broken". I should have been the one to tell her "I Love You", and "it's okay to go be with your maker."

But I still went to the hospital and said goodbye to her, sang a few of her favorite hymns. Especially "Amazing Grace" & "I'll Fly Away."

As Representative Click has been saying: "No one should die alone." Everyone should have those rights on deaths door. Especially for family and/or clergy. The passage of this bill would be a wonderful thing for so many others who are experiencing what I did and so many others who wouldn't have to endure the same horrific pain, loss, and brokenness I did.

In closing, I would like to say thank you again to Representative Click, Representative Lipps, Representative Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, members of the House Health Committee, and the cosponsors of H.B. No. 324. If nothing else good has come out of this horrific virus it would be the honor of knowing H.B. No. 324 was named after my mother & her best friend Shirley.

Thank you,

God Bless America