**Chambers promises to keep pushing for aid-in-dying law**

 Apr 04, 2016 <http://www.ketv.com/news/chambers-promises-to-keep-pushing-for-aidindying-law/38857172>

Watch short YouTube from Omaha TV station

DIGNITY OF -- DIGNITY. KRISTYNA: TONIGHT, WE ARE HEARING THIS COUPLES STORY. ALLEN AND LOIS HANSEN CHOSE TO DIE IN THAT OF SUFFERING. A DECISION THEIR SON SAYS HE PROUDLY SUPPORTED. FOR ALLEN AND LOIS HANSEN IT WAS QUALITY OF LIFE. TWO PEOPLE WHO WANTED CONTROL OF THEIR FINAL DAYS. >> THEY CALLED UP AND SAID WE NEED TO TALK TO YOU. ABOUT. KRISTYNA: THEIR SON SAYS IT WAS A DECISION HE UNDERSTOOD. WATCHING HIS FATHER LIVED WITH DECIDED IT WAS TIME. A DATE. KRISTYNA: HE SAYS HIS DAD STOCKPILED MEDICATION, SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH FAMILY AND TOOK THE PILLS. HE PASSED AWAY 30 HOURS LATER. >> HE ACTED WITH KURDS. KRISTYNA: IT IS FOR PEOPLE LIKE ALAN AND LOIS THAT SENATOR CHAMBERS INTRODUCED THIS BILL. HE SAYS LB 1056 IS ONLY FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL. ALLOWING DOCTORS TO PRESCRIBE LIFE ENDING MEDICATION. >> IT IS COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY. IT IS NO ONE ELSE'S BUSINESS. KRISTYNA: SOME DOCTORS ARGUE IT IS AGAINST THEIR ETHICS. >> WE HAVE MADE GRE STEPS SO PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE TO SUFFER. KRISTYNA: BUT THIS SON SAYS IT SELF-CONTROL. >> WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT THIS. EVERYONE. BEGIN THAT CONVERSATION. KRISTYNA: AS FOR THE HANSENS, WAS LIVING ON MORPHINE. DRINKING.

LINCOLN, Neb. —Nebraska's longest-serving lawmaker has adopted a new cause that he plans to pursue every year: allowing adults with terminal illnesses to end their own lives. [Ernie Chambers has been behind every Progressive thing you can name for decades and this will also be in our legislature again. Notice how the media only tells [one side of this story](http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2015/03/always-care-never-kill-how-physician-assisted-suicide-endangers-the-weak-corrupts-medicine-compromises-the-family-and-violates-human-dignity-and-equality#.VulzxUnfwBU.mailto)]

A bill that would let Nebraska adults suffering from a terminal illness legally end their own lives has stalled in committee, but its sponsor says he's confident the Legislature will still debate it this year.

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha filed a motion Monday to pull his aid-in-dying bill out of a legislative committee, where it was stuck. Nine senators supported the motion while 28 voted against it, but Chambers said he plans to keep pursuing it. [[Video: Chambers promises to keep pushing for aid-in-dying law]](http://www.ketv.com/news/chambers-promises-to-keep-pushing-for-aidindying-law/38868502) Chambers and other supporters say the measure would ease suffering and allow death with dignity. Some medical groups oppose the bill, saying it would force doctors to make value judgments about the quality of a patient's life.

"It's completely voluntary," Chambers said. "It is not anybody else's business. Chambers is well-known for his efforts over four decades to abolish the death penalty. Lawmakers repealed it last year. It was difficult for families like those of Alan and Lois Hansen, who suffered from terminal diseases and took their own lives. "They called up and said, 'We need to talk to you,'" Topher Hansen said. "Right away, I knew what it was about."

Topher Hansen said it was a decision he understood; watching his father live with Parkinson's disease for years before deciding it was time. "My dad said, 'I'm going to pick a date and end my life on that date,'" Topher Hansen said. Topher Hansen said his dad stockpiled his medication, surrounded himself with family and took the pills. He passed away 30 hours later. "If courage is acting bravely in the face of adverse circumstances, that's what he did," Topher Hansen said. "This, for me, is just the first step in what will be a long and arduous journey," Chambers said.

Pro-life and some medical groups oppose the measure, concerned that it would lead to assisted suicide and doesn't consider advances to ease suffering. "We have made advances in hospice care, respite care pain control," Sen. Mike Gloor said. "There is a science here, so people don't need to suffer."

But Topher Hansen, who testified before the judiciary committee last month, said it's not just about pain but the choice of qualify of life. "Of course I miss him," Hansen said of a loved one. "But in my pride of who he was, that was the most courageous act I've ever witnessed in my life."Even though he could muster only nine votes in favor of the proposal, Chambers said he's not discouraged. "This is one of those ideas, which in [Nebraska, its time has not come](https://www.compassionandchoices.org/) but it's on the way," Chambers said. [This culture of death is well funded and tenacious]